COMMENT

高山しのぶ
SHINOBU TAKAYAMA

画集やら他のコミックスやわたわたしていたら、もう通算10冊目の単行本です。アニメも一段落で色々一区心機一転また頑張ります。うす。

ZERO SUM BOOKS NEXT ISSUE

2008年10月25日(土)発売予定《コミックス》
◎伯爵家御用達[4]　篠原花那(原作 高殿円)
◎#000000 -ultra black-[2]　如月芳規
◎共鳴せよ！私立高校図書委員会[3]　D・キッサン

2008年10月25日(土)発売予定《アンソロジー》
◎オリジナルアンソロジー Arcana Vol.9[変化&探人化]

ISBN978-4-7580-5363-1
C9979 ¥552E
雑誌 50639-11
定価：本体552円＋税
一迅社

ZERO-SUM COMICS 既刊好評発売中

A5判

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 素屋裏 | ①-② | 魔神ぐり子 |
| ストレンジ・プラス | ①-⑧ | 美川べるの |
| 最遊記RELOAD | ①-⑨ | 峰倉かずや |
| 最遊記 | 全9巻 | 峰倉かずや |
| 最遊記外伝 | ①-③ | 峰倉かずや |
| 冥界断 | 全2巻 | 凜野　ミキ |
| 時間・空間・人物 | 全1巻 | 凜野　ミキ |

B6判

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| オリンボス | ① | あ　き |
| 07-GHOST | ①-⑥ | 原作：BONES　漫画：望月淳 |
| コーセルテルの竜術士物語 | ①-⑥ | 石動あゆま |
| 玻璃月姉妹縁物語 | ① | 原作：門井亜矢　漫画：高瀬彼方 |
| DAWN～冷たい手 | 全6巻 | 上田　信舟 |
| 破天荒遊戯 | ①-⑩ | 遠藤　海成 |
| Weiß Side B | ①-⑤ | 原作：ラヒロユウ　漫画：宇安欽又 |
| 学園ノイズ | 全4巻 | 原作：オマツダヒロキ　漫画：鷲尾天一介 |
| landreaall | ①-⑫ | おがきちか |
| Nightmare★Alice | 全1巻 | 小野寺　明 |
| 嵐雪記 | ①-⑨ | 片山　愁 |
| バンパイアドール・ギルナザン | ①-⑤ | 雁　えりか |
| ロスト～異界の獣たち～ | 全3巻 | 山本　鳳　漫画：門井亜矢 |
| 少年羽狩人 | ①-② | 喜久田ゆい |
| #000000-ultra black- | ① | 如月　芳規 |
| 橙星 | ① | 群　青 |
| LOVELESS | ①-⑧ | 高河　ゆん |
| Gemeinschaft | 全5巻 | 佐伯弥四郎 |
| 伯爵家御用達 | ①-③ | 原作：篠原花那　漫画：高瀬　彰 |
| アニメ店長 | ①-③ | 島本　和彦 |
| あまつき | ①-⑧ | 高山しのぶ |
| 共鳴せよ！私立高校図書委員会 | ①-② | D・キッサン |
| 鉄壱智 | ①-④ | なるしまゆり |
| DOLLS | ①-⑥ | naked ape |
| とかげ | 全3巻 | 灰原　薬 |

続々ドラマCD化！
「あまつき」新作ドラマCD&「MR.MORNING」初ドラマCD化決定！
全編書き下ろしシナリオで贈る「あまつき」新作ドラマCD。
紅石商風華を迎える「シンジュー」「MR.MORNING」を中心にドラマCDに。
詳しくは月刊コンプエクスZERO SUM以上月号(10月25日発売)、11月発売の「ハイガクラ」1巻をチェックしてね。
ZERO SUMのHP(http://www.ichijinsha.co.jp/)のGOODニュースでも申し込み方法がチェックできます！

「ハイガクラ」第1巻'08年11月25日(火)発売決定!!
—それは、自分達の神を取り戻すための物語—
高山しのぶが贈る、新作中国風伝奇物語!!　乞うご期待!!!
月刊ZERO-SUM増刊WARD(年数回刊行予定　特別定価600円(税込))で大人気連載中!

天へと届く矢を放て
帝天によって天綿は書き換えられ、紺の記憶はリセットされてしまった…。
自らサカガミ神社に乗り込んだ鎖時もまた、佐々木の手の者に捕らわれしまう。
彼がその中で見たものとは…

高山しのぶ

一迅社HomePage
http://www.ichijinsha.co.jp/
一迅社オンラインショップ
ドラマCDやテレカなど、ここでしか入手できないレアな商品が盛りだくさん!
http://www.shop.ichijinsha.co.jp/

COMMENT

高山しのぶ
SHINOBU TAKAYAMA

画集やら他のコミックスやらでわたわたしていたら、もう八巻。通算10冊目の単行本です。アニメも一段落で色々一区切り。心機一転また頑張ります。うす。

ZERO-SUM COMICS

あまつき 日

高山しのぶ

エロ ニ 一迅社

9784758053631

ISBN978-4-7580-5363-1

C9979 ¥552E

雑誌 50639-11

定価：本体552円＋税

1929979005528

一迅社

ZERO-SUM COMICS 既刊好評発売中

A5判

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 素屋裏 | ①-② | 魔神ぐり子 |
| ストレンジ・プラス | ①-⑧ | 美川べるの |
| 最遊記RELOAD | ①-⑨ | 峰倉かずや |
| 最遊記 | 全9巻 | 峰倉かずや |
| 最遊記外伝 | ①-③ | 峰倉かずや |
| 冥界断 | 全2巻 | 凜野 ミキ |
| 時間、空間、人物 | 全1巻 | 凜野 ミキ |

B6判

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| オリンボス | ① | あ き |
| 07-GHOST | ①-⑥ | 原作 BONES 作画 藤原なずな |
| コーセルテルの竜術士物語 | ①-⑥ | 石動あゆま |
| 玻璃月姉妹縁物語 | ① | 原作 黒鉄ヒロシ 漫画 黒鉄天子 |
| DAWN～冷たい手 | 全6巻 | 上田 信舟 |
| 破天荒遊戯 | ①-⑩ | 斎藤 海成 |
| Weiß Side B | ①-⑤ | 原作 うえお久光 漫画 宇安欽人 |
| 学園ノイズ | 全4巻 | 原作 ディアビレコ 漫画 夫一介 |
| landreaall | ①-⑫ | おがきちか |
| Nightmare★Alice | 全1巻 | 小野寺 明 |
| 嵐雪記 | ①-⑨ | 片山 愁 |
| バンパイアドール・ギルナザン | ①-⑤ | 雁 えりか |
| ロスト～異界の獣たち～ | 全3巻 | 原作 山本 黒鳥子 漫画 黒鉄天子 |
| 少年羽狩人 | ①-② | 喜久田ゆい |
| #000000-ultra black- | ① | 如月 芳規 |
| 橙星 | ① | 群 青 |
| LOVELESS | ①-⑱ | 高河 ゆん |
| Gemeinschaft | 全5巻 | 佐伯弥四郎 |
| 伯爵家御用達 | ①-③ | 原作 鳳 蒼 漫画 鶴崎 貴大 |
| アニメ店長 | ①-③ | 島本 和彦 |
| あまつき | ①-⑧ | 高山しのぶ |
| 共謀せよ！私立鳳高校図書委員会 | ①-② | D・キッサン |
| 鉄壱智 | ①-④ | なるしまゆり |
| DOLLS | ①-⑥ | naked ape |
| とかげ | 全3巻 | 灰原 薬 |
| 導屋 | ①-② | 原作 ナスカ 漫画 保坂嘉弘 |
| 狼～BAKU～ | ①-③ | びっけ |
| 東海道HISAME―陽炎― | ①-② | 松永 空也 |
| カーニヴァル | ①-② | 御巫 桃也 |
| Magical×Miracle | 全6巻 | 水谷 悠珠 |
| 魔法騎士マジックスター学院★★★ | ①-④ | 南澤 久佳 |
| BUS GAMER THE NEXT STAGE | 全1巻 | 峰倉かずや |
| 拝み屋横丁顧末記 | ①-⑩ | 宮本 福助 |
| di[e]ce―ダイス― | ①-② | 山本 鏡 原作 BIG 漫画 |
| Azrael's EDGE | 全1巻 | 遊行寺たま |
| 収拾体質 | ①-② | よねやまゆこ |
| ピカピカ家畜 | ① | 屋の ミキ |
| 不機嫌な名探偵division-Ø | ①-② | 夏辺 瑞樹 |

going to school
morning gathering
Lunchtime
supplementary lessons
Amatsuki 8
Shinobu Takayama
other acorricular activities

# Amatsuki 8

## Contents

Chapter 43: Three Thunder-strikes 5

Chapter 44: Restless Lily-of-the-Valley 37

Chapter 45: Butterfly's Illusion, Part 1 65

Chapter 46: Butterfly's Illusion, Part 2 97

Chapter 47: Butterfly's Illusion, Part 3 127

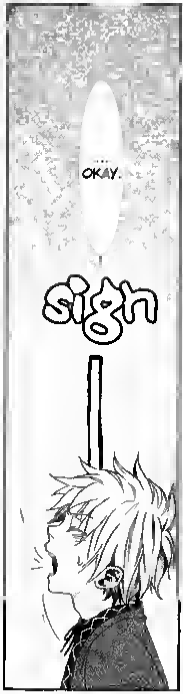
Chapter 48: Late Spring Rain 165

AMATSUKI ICHI Shinobu Tokoyomo

Chapter 43
Three Thunder-strikes

WE MEET AGAIN,
YOUNG HUMAN.
SO,
HAVE YOU FOUND...

THE ANSWER YOU WERE LOOKING FOR?


...
OKAY.
sigh

Okay...okay things just got seriously weird. what should I do...?

THAT FACE DOESN'T SUIT YOU

!!
grunt

HUH ...?
THIS GUY ...
slither
THE BOTTOM HALF OF HIS BODY...
IS A SNAKE!?
slither

STAY FOCUSED!
STAY CALM.
huff

I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I'VE GOT A FEELING THAT THIS HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THAT WEIRD BUTTERFLY
AH...
TWITCH
NN
I'VE NEVER MET A DEMON LIKE THIS BEFORE

SHIN-SHU!!
SH
HEY!

SHIN-SHU...!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING...!?
THAT VOICE...
IT COULDN'T BE...
THAT WASN'T MY VOICE
HUH?
WHAT?
SHOCK

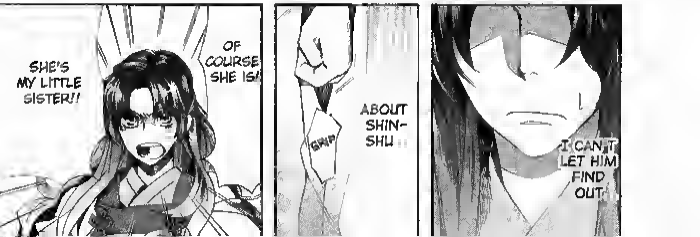
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH HER!?
BYAKUROKU, THE LORD OF HEAVEN'S SEAT AND THE MASTER OF THIS FOREST, WOULD USE A CHILD AS A HOSTAGE!!?
GINSHU-SAN!?
FUFU
FROM THE WAY YOU SPEAK, IT SEEMS YOU HAVE DONE YOUR RESEARCH ON ME,
YOUNG HUMAN

YES.
I HAD TO TRACK DOWN EXTREMELY OLD BOOKS
BUT SINCE YOU WERE INVOLVED
IN THE VERY FOUNDATION OF THIS SHRINE, IT WAS INEVITABLE.
THIS VALLEY HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE TERRITORY OF DEMONS
SO WHY WAS A SHRINE BUILT HERE IN THE VALLEY FOREST?
WASN'T IT BECAUSE WE HAD TO RECLAIM THIS PLACE FROM YOU?
THE STRONGEST DEMON OF ALL WAS LIVING HERE,
AND THE BARRIER BETWEEN OUR KINDS HAD GROWN EXTREMELY WEAK

THE SAKAGAMI SHRINE WAS BUILT HERE...
TO SEPARATE THE SURFACE FROM THE GATE TO THE UNDER-WORLD,
TO PREVENT THE LID OF HELL'S FURNACE FROM OPENING.
AND TO STOP YOUR KIND FROM CRAWLING OUT OF THE FOREST AND INTO THE WORLD OF MAN, WAS IT NOT?
...THAT'S AN OLD STORY.
I NEVER INTENDED TO LEAVE THIS FOREST.
BUT SOME-TIMES.
I SIMPLY WISHED TO PEEK IN ON THE HUMAN WORLD.
THE HUMAN STRUGGLE AGAINST INEVITABLE FATE IS QUITE ENTERTAINING.
UGH
...!!!
ENOUGH!!
WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO WITH SHINSHU...!?

HOW-EVER,
MY PLAN WAS TO LET EVENTS PROGRESS NATURALLY.
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BECOME A PROBLEM.
WELL... I FELT SUCH AN OMINOUS AURA AS YOU APPROACHED.
OH. HER?

SHOCK
SO PRECIOUS TO YOU?
IS SHE...
YOU SEEM ESPECIALLY WORRIED.


SHE'S MY LITTLE SISTER!!
OF COURSE SHE IS!
SHIP
ABOUT SHIN-SHU...
I CAN'T LET HIM FIND OUT.

AMAZING
HOW DID THIS COME TO BE?
WHAT?
A SISTER. SIBLINGS
nod nod
ARE THAT SORT OF THING?
—I SEE
—.

!?
Won't you—
explain it to me?

IS TEASING ME SO MUCH FUN!?
WHAT DO YOU WANT!?
Y... YOU...

IF THAT'S HOW IT IS—
ARE WE ARE HUMANS JUST A "PEST" TO YOU!?

IT IS EASY...
TO KILL HUMANS.
BUT THAT IS NOT SOMETHING THAT INTERESTS ME
I...
ABOUT DEMONS,
EVERY-THING
ABOUT THIS WORLD,
WISH TO KNOW EVERY-THING.
ABOUT HUMANS,
EVERY-THING
ABOUT THIS WORLD?
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT

...HEY!
GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF!! WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED!? YOU WENT BLANK ALL OF A SUDDEN...
I'M...
I'M BACK.
OH.
UM...
AH...
YEAH.
YOU'RE BACK?
WHAT THE HELL?
flutter
...
HEY!!
gasp
I ONLY CARED ABOUT THE PRACTICALITIES. I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT THE BIG PICTURE.

flutter
whirl
?
jump
SLAM
whoosh
whoosh
.....!
SFX. "snap"

AHHHHHHHH
HUH?
GAH!!!
SFX: *stab*

wheeze
wheeze
HA HA HA HA HA...
SO THE HEAD OF THE SHRINE REALLY WAS HIS YOUNGER SISTER
THIS IS...
NO, IT CAN'T BE...
FOOLS
LEAVING THAT BARRIER WAS YOUR MISTAKE
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

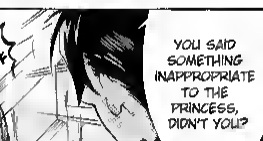
LET US DEPART THIS WORLD TOGETHER...!
SHIN-SHU...
SOON
RUN...
RUN AS FAST AS YOU CAN...
NO
NO
Gasp
HEY!
SNAP
FROM BACK THEN...!?
HA HA...

ARE YOU SUUUUURE YOU'RE OKAY...?
.....
THERE'S NO DOUBT..
WHAT I JUST SAW...
WAS GINSHU-SAN'S MEMORY!!!

NOT A CHANCE.
...YOU'RE REALLY NOT GOING TO LET ME OUT OF HERE, ARE YOU?
HUH?
AH
YEAH.
SURE
TH—
THAT'S FINE, BUT—
HEY!
IF YOU'RE REALLY OKAY, I'M GONNA GO
ALRIGHT?

EH!?
D— do something like that
Oh no I wouldn't..
Absolutely not.
probably
CHECK
YOU SAID SOMETHING INAPPROPRIATE TO THE PRINCESS, DIDN'T YOU?

YEAH
I GUESS SO, BUT
I WONDER ABOUT THAT—


A DAY OUGHT TO BE ENOUGH FOR YOU TO REFLECT ON YOUR MISDEEDS, RIGHT?
MY ORDERS ARE TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T CAUSE TROUBLE
Besides, they're letting you go tomorrow

OKAY, OKAY
I GOT IT
OH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO INTO TOWN OR ANYTHING
NO, JUST OUTSIDE THE SHRINE IS ENOUGH.
CAN YOU AT LEAST DELIVER A MESSAGE FOR ME?
HUH?
TO WHO?
MY NAME IS RIKUGOU.
RIKUGOU TOKIDOKI
OH! RIGHT
...?
YEAH SO?
WHAT'S YOUR NAME, ANYWAY?
Tsuyukusa...
Tsuyukusa...
Tsuyukusa...
HA HA
TOKI
SEE YA.
HEH, COMPARED TO YOUR FACE, THAT'S A TOUGH-SOUNDING NAME.

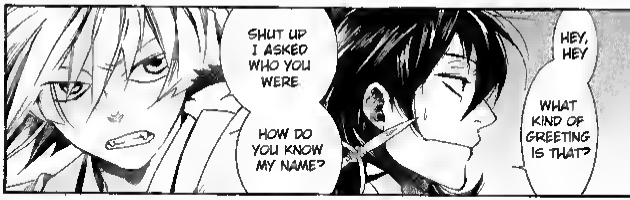
OH, KON
ARE YOU GOING SHOPPING?
YEAH
I'LL BE BACK SOON
HI-YA!

RUMM
HERE, WAS IT...?

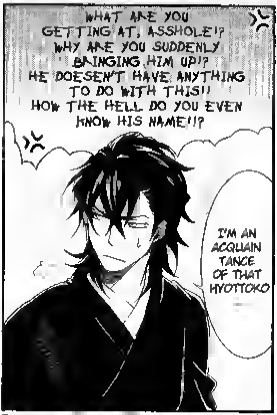
THERE'S NOBODY HERE
Why did I get stuck out here...?

silence

silence
OOO!!!!!.
IS THERE A GUY CALLED "TSUYUKUSA" AROUND HERE ?
hello
...OI!
IS ANYBODY HERE?
OKAY, WHAT NOW?
*****
WHO ARE YOU?
JINGLE

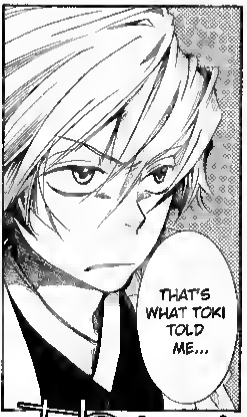


...UH...
YEAH.
THAT'S WHAT HE SAID THEN
snap snap
growl growl
grrrr
Tsuyukusa is the kind of guy who likes to pick fights.
Oh be careful when you're delivering the message
He's kinda like a hedgehog.


WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT, ASSHOLE!? WHY ARE YOU SUDDENLY BRINGING HIM UP!? HE DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS!! HOW THE HELL DO YOU EVEN KNOW HIS NAME!!?
I'M AN ACQUAINTANCE OF THAT HYOTTOKO

T/N "Hyottoko" is a traditional character in temple plays whose masked face resembles Heihachi's

That guy looks like some kind of freak... green hair WTF!?
THAT GUY IS WAY TOO TALL...!! AND THE WAY HE TALKS IS ANNOYING!
I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF HIM!!!
First Impression

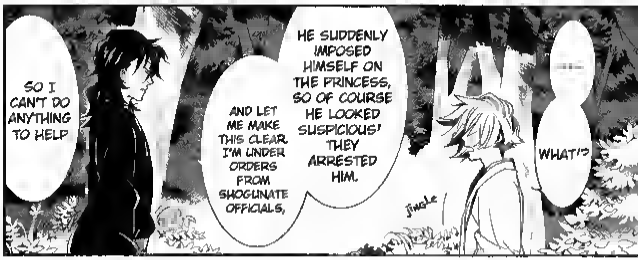

THAT'S WHAT TOKI TOLD ME...
+bud

...ANYWAY,
TOKI SENT ME TO DELIVER A MESSAGE
Whatever, he's just some brat

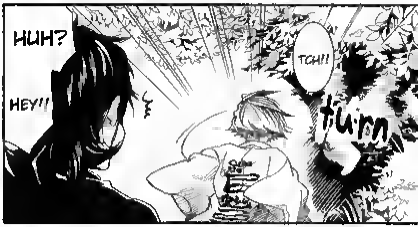
HE SAID THAT...

WHAT IS IT?
HE MAKES ME SICK!
① He told my name to a human.
② Hatsuchi's name too. I looked like an idiot!
③ This guy in front of me is totally annoying.
I'm going to beat the shit out of him when he gets back!

"I COULDN'T MAKE IT BACK AND YOU CAN'T GO ANYWHERE ON YOUR OWN, SO RETURN TO BASE RIGHT AWAY."
!


SO I CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO HELP
AND LET ME MAKE THIS CLEAR. I'M UNDER ORDERS FROM SHOGUNATE OFFICIALS,
HE SUDDENLY IMPOSED HIMSELF ON THE PRINCESS, SO OF COURSE HE LOOKED SUSPICIOUS! THEY ARRESTED HIM.
WHAT!?
Jingle

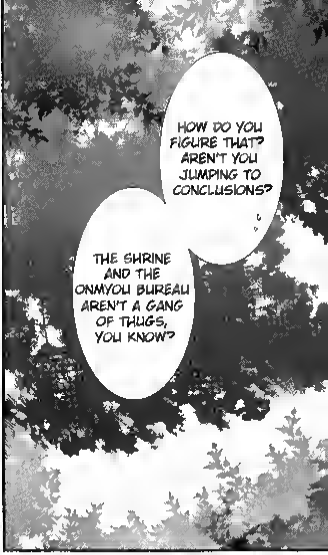
twitch
HUH!?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?


HUH?
HEY!!
TCH!!
turn

THEY'RE GOING TO RELEASE HIM TOMORROW ANYWAY!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET SO WORKED UP. HE'S FINE!

THERE'S NO POINT IN KEEPING SOMEONE LIKE HIM LOCKED UP.
WELL, DUH.
what would they do with him?
YEAH?
THE SHOGUNATE TAKES ORDERS FROM THE ONMYOU BUREAU, DON'T THEY?
THEY'LL MESS WITH HIS HEAD!
AND HE WON'T BE ABLE TO THINK FOR HIMSELF!
AND HE'LL BECOME THEIR PAWN!!
HUH?
IF HE STAYS THERE, THEN MOST LIKELY—
I WOULDN'T PUT ANYTHING PAST THEM!

MAYBE YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S GOT IT ALL WRONG!
THEY'RE NOT AS BENIGN AS YOU THINK THEY ARE...


HOW DO YOU FIGURE THAT? AREN'T YOU JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS?
THE SHRINE AND THE ONMYOU BUREAU AREN'T A GANG OF THUGS, YOU KNOW?

THE "CURRENT" YOU FORGOT ALL OF THAT, RIGHT?
THEN THERE'S NO POINT IN TALKING TO YOU!

HOW SHOULD I KNOW?...
I'VE NEVER EVEN MET THE GUY
DO YOU BELIEVE ME?

...OH YEAH

GRUNT

WHAT?
WHAT DID I FORGET!?

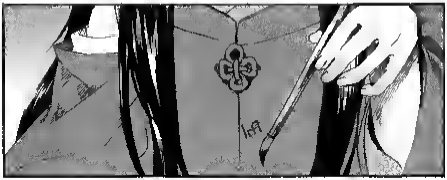
SHIT!
grrr

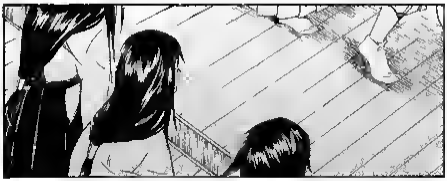
that annoyance girl!
tun tun tun

TCH!
.....!
WHAT A WASTE OF TIME!
whoosh

CAN'T WE JUST WORK OUT THIS MISUNDER-STANDING?
.....
...OH, SO YOU CAME AGAIN TODAY
Oh, so you were waiting for me today?

Shinonome Kon moved to Edo five years ago
And six months ago he came here to work
IF YOU KNOW THAT, THEN WHY DO YOU KEEP COMING HERE?
DAMN IT, LOOK, I'M SORRY





write
write

I'LL BE RIGHT THERE

EVERY-ONE
HAS GATH-ERED
PRIN-CESS!
PRIN-CESS!

fwoosh
chatter chatter
CRASH
LOUD LOUD
Gimme a hand!
creak
Is that blood?
chatter chatter
CLATTER
BANG
Hey we're running short!
WHAT'S ALL THIS FUSS?
(wah aaah)
chatter chatter
WHAT'S THIS?
Be careful!
chop chop chop

SOME IMPORTANT PEOPLE FROM THE ONMYOU BUREAU SUDDENLY DECIDED TO HAVE A BANQUET!
CHATTER CHATTER
IT'S ONE THING AFTER ANOTHER!
CHATTER CHATTER
ANYWAY, WE'RE COOKING UP EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT!!
HUH!?
grimace
AH— SORRY.
WHAT'S GOING ON? THIS IS REALLY SUDDEN.
CHATTER CHATTER
HEY!
KON, YOU BASTARD! GET BACK TO YOUR POST RIGHT NOW!
CHATTER CHATTER
CHATTER CHATTER
WHERE DID YOU GO WANDERING OFF TO, YOU IDIOT!?
WELL, WELL—
NOW, EVERY-ONE, LET'S POUR THE DRINKS AND WAIT FOR DINNER.
EVEN IF THEY'RE NINJAS
IT'S A PARTY WITH IMPORTANT GUESTS!!

SFX: *reveal*
IT'S BEEN QUITE A LONG TIME SINCE WE'VE ALL GATHERED UNDER ONE ROOF LIKE THIS, HASN'T IT?
FU FU.
EVERYONE HAS BEEN BUSY, RIGHT?
I APOLOGIZE FOR CALLING YOU ALL HERE SO SUDDENLY,
BUT I HOPE THAT THIS DELICIOUS, FREE MEAL AND DELICIOUS, FREE LIQUOR WILL ENTICE YOU TO FORGIVE ME

THE REASON FOR GATHERING YOU ALL HERE IS...
IF USED SKILLFULLY, IT CAN BECOME A BOW THAT WILL REACH HEAVEN
THAT A VERY INTERESTING RABBIT HAS JUMPED INTO THE SNARE
SO LET US MAKE OUR MOVE
THOSE HEAVENLY BEASTS WHO SIT ABOVE THE SHOGUN ARE AN EYESORE

HANA-MI
AMATSUKI
TRANSLATION & EDITING
SANADA
SCANS
EISHIYA
RAW
NET
www.amatsukimanga.livejournal.com
www.hana-mi.net

Chapter 44: Restless Lily-of-the-Valley
WE ARE THE ONLY ONES OF OUR KIND.
WE ARE BOUND BY BLOOD AND BY FANGS
Slide
KUCHIKI, I BROUGHT FOOD.

Chapter 21
Hopeless Cry of the Fallen

turn
I DON'T WANT ANY!
LOOK
IT'S THE GOOD STUFF.
GASP
NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY, YOU MUST BE HUNGRY, RIGHT?
.....?
stop
stagger
stagger
stagger
stagger
WELL...
THEY SAY IT'S A SIN..
TO WASTE FOOD...
SO...
YEAH.
grab
.....
WHATEVER

OH.
I ALREADY ATE
Go ahead
IT'S OKAY, YOU CAN EAT IT ALL
GLARE
chomp chomp chomp
chomp chomp

I STILL HAVE WORK TO DO
WHEN YOU'RE DONE I'M GOING BACK TO THE MAIN ROOM
EXCUSE ME.
OH.
OKAY THEN
chou chou
B
ぐぃ

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT I'M GOING TO SAY BEFORE I SAY IT?
hmph
!
?
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT.
EVEN WHEN WE WERE KIDS
Pouty
WHAT YOUR TOOTH HURTS? LET ME SEE.
Ah
YOU MUST BE HUNGRY, KUCHIHA I BROUGHT YOU SOME FOOD
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT

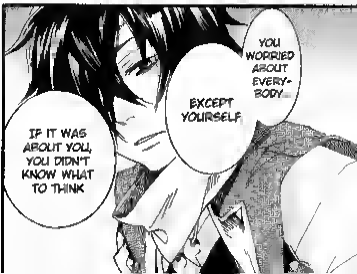
IS YOUR BACK BROKEN?
OKAY, I RE-MEM-BER!

I'LL HELP YOU DOWN
JUST HOLD ON

DID YOU HURT YOUR FOOT?

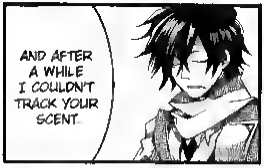
WE USED TO BE SO CLOSE
BUT THAT'S WHY WE STAYED TOGETHER, EVEN IF IT WAS ONLY FOR A SHORT TIME
SH..
SHUT UP!!
WELL, THAT AND THE FACT THAT YOU COULDN'T TALK SO GOOD BACK THEN

YOU WERE ALWAYS THE THOUGHTFUL ONE...
YEAH...


IF IT WAS ABOUT YOU, YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK
EXCEPT YOURSELF
YOU WORRIED ABOUT EVERY-BODY...

BACK THEN, I PROMISED MYSELF THAT I'D FORGET ALL ABOUT YOU!
A GUY WHO SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED OFF TO GOD-KNOWS-WHERE HAS NO RIGHT TO TALK TO ME LIKE THAT!

YOU WERE THE ONE THAT DIS-APPEARED
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
?


AND AFTER A WHILE I COULDN'T TRACK YOUR SCENT.

HUH!?
GULP
LIKE I SAID YOU WERE THE ONE WHO LEFT
WHEN I LEFT, I TOLD YOU TO WAIT FOR ME.

...
THAT'S HOW YOU WERE ABLE TO HIDE YOURSELF.
THE DOG GOD MUST HAVE BEEN FIERCLY WATCHING OVER YOU.

THAT'S HOW I FOUND YOU...
SO I WAS GRADUALLY ABLE TO SENSE THAT I WAS GETTING CLOSER.
YOU SETTLED DOWN HERE,
BUT EVEN THOUGH I COULDN'T TRACK YOUR SCENT...

DID YOU FORGET ABOUT THE BIG DISTURBANCE HERE?
!!

BUT
HOW DID YOU FIND OUT WHERE I LIVE?
Pant pant

HUH?

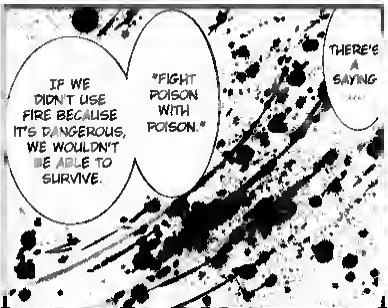
HEY!
THAT
THAT WASN'T MY FAULT!
WHAT REALLY HAP PENED...
WAS THAT THEY ATTACKED ME WHEN I WAS UNARMED!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
?
WHAT?
NOT-HING
stare

I'M THE BRAINS AND YOU'RE THE BRAWN.
THAT'S ONLY NATURAL.
YOU'RE SO UNFAIR!
YOU CAN ALWAYS TELL WHAT I'M THINKING, BUT I CAN'T READ YOU AT ALL!
Grumble
FIGURING OUT WHAT PEOPLE ARE THINKING IS MY JOB.
SO I CAN SEE WHAT YOU REALLY WANT.
WHEN WE SEPARATED
IT WAS BECAUSE THAT WAS WHAT YOU WANTED.
WHAT YOU WANTED MOST
WAS TO SEARCH FOR A PLACE WHERE YOU WOULD BE ACCEPTED.
YOU WISHED TO LIVE AMONG OTHER PEOPLE.

A PLACE WHERE YOUR WISH COULD BE GRANTED.
SO I SET OFF TO FIND...
...AND YOU'RE SAYING THAT PLACE IS THE ONMYOU BUREAU?

YOU WANT TO GO OUT AND BE AMONG OTHER PEOPLE.
AND THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE THAT CAN GIVE YOU THAT.
YES
BECAUSE YOU ARE WHO YOU ARE.


IF WE DIDN'T USE FIRE BECAUSE IT'S DANGEROUS, WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SURVIVE.
"FIGHT POISON WITH POISON."
THERE'S A SAYING...

OR IS IT
BE-CAUSE I HAVE THE DOG GOD?

BUT EVEN IF WE DEFEATED ALL OF THE STRONG ONES,
HUMANITY WOULD STILL NOT BE SAFE FROM THE DEMONS' CLUTCHES
THERE AREN'T MANY DEMONS WITH POWER LIKE THOSE OF HEAVEN'S SEAT.

GRIP
STRENGTH OF WILL AND OVER-WHELMING PHYSICAL FORCE
WE'LL NEED
WHOOSH
WE'LL NEED MORE THAN THE STRENGTH OF OUR PRAYERS WHEN THE TIME COMES

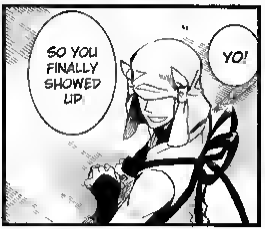
PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT
MAYBE THEY'RE NOT MONSTERS
MAYBE THEY'RE NOT...
THE DEMONS
THEY AREN'T ALL LIKE THAT

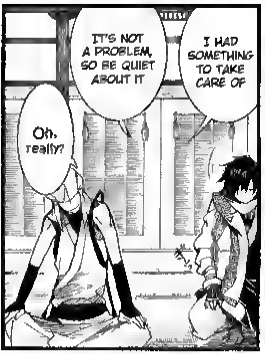
BUT YOU CAN'T CHANGE THE DIRECTION OF THE RELATIONSHIP.
HUMANS MUST STAND ABOVE DEMONS
THE DOG GOD IS AT OUR SERVICE.
IT'S THE SAME FOR US.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
THEY JUST NEED TO BE PROPERLY DEALT WITH
LISTEN TO ME!
I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE ANY-BODY OR ANYTHING MY SER-VANT!!
YOU'RE FLIPPING THE ENTIRE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE DOG GOD!! YOU'RE JUST USING IT!!
WHO ARE YOU TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT!!
!
YOU ARE SO FULL OF YOUR-SELF!
I WILL DEAL WITH THE THINGS...
THAT BOTHER YOU.
YOU CAN DO WHAT YOU LIKE.
IT'S ALRIGHT.

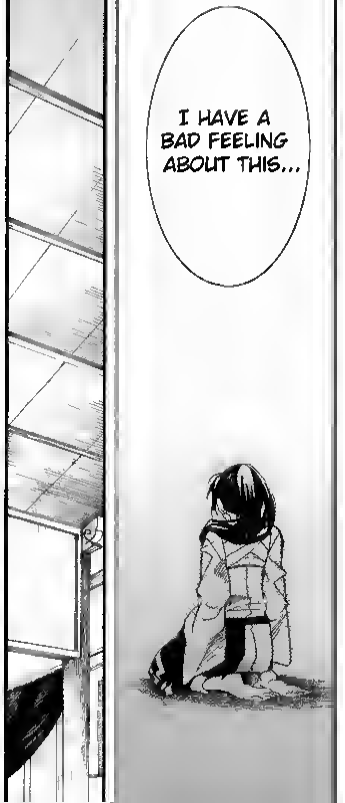
.....
JUST LIKE
...TOKI...
blink
.....
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
cringe
.....!
UGH!
WHAT EVER!
...YOU SOUND JUST LIKE T...TOKI...!!
I'LL BE GOING
OKAY
O...
HUH!?
WELL, THEN.
shift
HUH?
DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO!
turn
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF WHILE I'M GONE

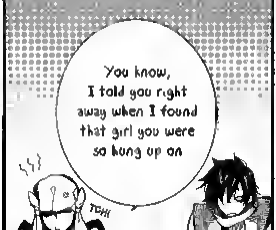
DON'T START BARKING
BECAUSE YOU'RE LONELY
WHAT!?
WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
grrrr
close
WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK I AM!? HEY!!
SO RUDE!!
I WON-DER
IS DOING
WHAT SHAMON-SAMA
ALONE
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'M LONE-LY!?
I'M JUST...

slide


YO!
SO YOU FINALLY SHOWED UP


I HAD SOMETHING TO TAKE CARE OF
IT'S NOT A PROBLEM, SO BE QUIET ABOUT IT
Oh, really?


I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...


You know, I told you right away when I found that girl you were so hung up on
TCH!
Ungrateful jerk...

It's nice to see you again...
Well. I'm glad you decided to come.

So let's get along as colleagues, okay~?
whistle

!!!
SHOCK
... I'LL SIC KUCHIHA'S DOG GOD ON YOU...
hmph

What's with that sour face?!
Hey!
CLAIRE
NO

BROTHER, YOU'RE SUCH A PEST
AH HA HA HA!
AH HA HA HA
You don't have to go that far~~~
chill out dude!

Hey...

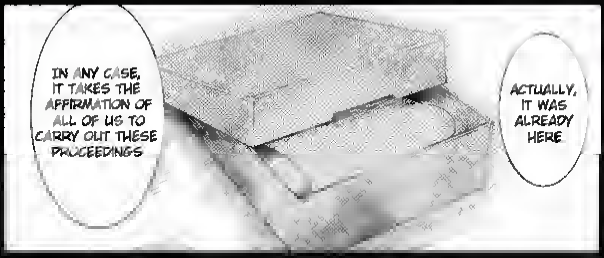
WHAT? IS SO CRUEL
MAYBE IT WOULD RATHER ATTACK YOU INSTEAD?
I WONDER?
fu fu fu fu
Do you really think my spider would fall for me?
Ah!
Hey~~~~ Beni-chaaan!

uhhh...
Al-SAN
YOU'RE KIND OF...
I'd like to make my introduction too.
I can't let Kanzou hog the spotlight.
Oh my~
What an interesting conversation~
I'M GOING TO KILL YOU...
you pervert!
I only want to sample your blood and other things, you know?
GRR
GGR
GAR
GGR
ehehe
I'm just doing a little research!
huff
Ahhh, why don't you like meow?
OH NO, A SPOILED CHILD IS A WONDERFUL THING!
HMPH!
WHATEVER.
Kishi Kishi Kishi
OF COURSE, I HAVE A LITTLE SISTER, SO I KIND OF UNDERSTAND THAT
AND YOU'VE TURNED KAN-SAN INTO A SPOILED BRAT.
Aaaa
THERE IS SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE MUST DO...
I HOPE YOU ALL GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER, SINCE YOU'LL BE WORKING TOGETHER AS MEMBERS OF THE ONMYOU BUREAU.
RIGHT?
SO EVERY-ONE, PLEASE GIVE HER A WARM WELCOME
SHE'S OUR NEW COMRADE,

KAN-ZOU
touch
AI-NEZU.
touch
touch
BENI-TOBI
KURO-TOBI.
touch
AND...
ME.
SO THAT WE MAY STRIKE DOWN THE BEASTS OF HEAVEN...
step
SASAKI-DONO
I'VE BEEN WAITING
OF COURSE. THANK YOU.
WELL, THEN.

glow
OH?
THIS IS STRANGE.
WHAT SORT OF DEVICE IS THIS?
IT IS SOMETHING THAT MUST NOT BE OPENED WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE ESTEEMED MEMBERS OF THE ONMYOU BUREAU!
THE BOX...
rustle
HAS BEEN WRAPPED IN THIS.
?
WHAT'S THIS?
?
IT LOOKS LIKE A PERFECTLY ORDINARY KIMONO...
AH!
THAT ...
LOOKS FAMILIAR!
ISN'T THAT RIKUGOU-SAN'S KIMONO?

RIKUGOU...
THAT BOY FROM EARLIER?
BUT WHY HIS KIMONO...?
THIS KIMONO BELONGS TO THE "UNWRITTEN PAGE"...
HE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO IS UNTOUCHED BY TEITEN'S INFLUENCE
SO, I'M BETTING THAT HIS BELONGINGS ARE SIMILARLY INVISIBLE TO HEAVEN'S NET.
...HMM.
WELL, WHAT OF IT?
WHY HAVE YOU BROUGHT SUCH AN INTERESTING ITEM HERE?
THIS WAS OBTAINED... WHEN HE CAME HERE BEFORE.
PLEASE COME THIS WAY.
YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES HERE.
IS THERE ANOTHER?
ALL POINTLESS.


IN ANY CASE, IT TAKES THE AFFIRMATION OF ALL OF US TO CARRY OUT THESE PROCEEDINGS
ACTUALLY, IT WAS ALREADY HERE

LET ME SEE.
hmm
.....

I'M SURE YOU'D LIKE TO TAKE A LOOK...
SO,

slide

!

NO, IT'S A NOTE?
A LETTER ADDRESSED TO .
.. THIS IS ..

'GIN-SHU!?
Yes?
YOU ARE THE 28TH GINSHU, CORRECT?
Yes.
YOU'RE SURE?
OF COURSE.
INTER-ESTING.
THEN THESE...
MUST BE YOUR "POSTHUMOUS WRITINGS."
Umm...?
"The 28th Ginshu."
That is the name I have been given.
That is my destiny.
And my duty.

spin spin
spin spin
swing
swing
swing
To this I have devoted my art.
drop
The bearer of this name is ordered "to protect humans from the demons."
And "to protect Shinshu"... these are my two duties.
SLAM
STAG
SLAM
To you.
I leave this note...
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?
Nothing!! Nothing at all!!!
Shock
In the hope that it may
Be of some use
Nothing is changed at all...

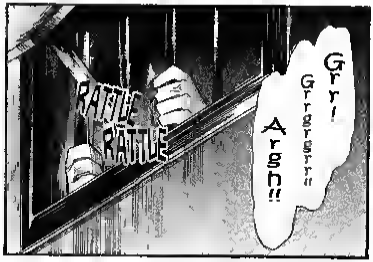
flutter
And so I may offer my guidance.
flutter
flutter
By the time you read this,
I...
And I will likely be gone from this world
Will have committed a great sin against Heaven.

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
RUSTLE

SFX "roar"

HANA-MI
AMATSUKI
TRANSLATION & EDITING
SANADA
SCANS
EISHYA
RAW
NET
www.amatsukimanga.livejournal.com
www.hana-mi.net

# Chapter 45
# Butterfly's Illusion
# [Part One]



OH NO, I WASN'T TRYING TO ESCAPE ..
I JUST SAW... UM... A STRANGE PERSON
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT ESCAPING
THEY'LL SEE YOU RIGHT AWAY
I WONDER...
HOW MANY OF GINSHU-SAN'S BUTTERFLIES...
HE HAS?
tch
THE DEMON THEY CALL "THE YAKOU"...
IT WAS LIKE HE WAS RIGHT OUTSIDE...
THE YAKOU? I HEARD ABOUT HIM FROM THE PRINCESS
HE HAS THE POWER TO DRIVE PEOPLE MAD. HE'S A FEARSOME DEMON.
HUH?
BACK DURING THE STUFF WITH IMAYOU, HE GATHERED UP ALL THE DEMONS.
SO I MUST
WHAT IS...
THAT GUY?

HA HA.
FOR A DEMON LIKE THAT TO BE LINGERING ON THE GROUNDS OF THIS MOST HOLY SHRINE...
...IT SEEMS AS IF THE MADNESS HAS TAKEN HOLD HERE, TOO

BLIT
I'M FINE
IT'S NOTHING

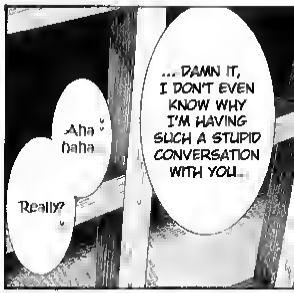
...?
TSURUMEGAMI-SAN?
ARE YOU OKAY?
ARE YOU IN PAIN?
WHAT'S WRONG?

S...
SORRY...
... ..
LIM

SHUT UP.. IT JUST FEELS LIKE MY HEAD IS SPINNING..
PROBABLY BECAUSE YOU'RE SO DAMNED NOISY
JUST BE QUIET...

HEH.
KUKUKU
YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T SPEAK IN SUCH A PATHETIC VOICE...
COUGH

I HAVE TO PROTECT THE SHRINE... I HAVE TO PROTECT THE PRINCESS.
IN MY POSITION, I CAN'T ALLOW EVEN THE SLIGHTEST NEGLI-GENCE.
PART OF ME THINKS WE WERE TOO HARSH ON YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS...
BUT I ALSO FEEL LIKE OUR ACTIONS WERE NECES-SARY.


... DAMN IT, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY I'M HAVING SUCH A STUPID CONVERSATION WITH YOU...
Aha haha
Really?

SINCE YOU SHOWED UP...
EVERY-THING'S GONE TO HELL.
laugh

NO... HE LIVES HERE, HE'S A COOK.
NO, IT WAS THREE THERE WAS THAT IRRITATING GUY.
WASN'T IT TWO OF YOU WHO CAME TO THE SHRINE?
NO...?
BUT THE THREE OF YOU... WERE THREE DIFFERENT KINDS OF WEIRD...

HER MEMORIES FROM BEFORE AND AFTER THE RESET ARE GETTING CONFUSED!
...
!
THAT'S IT...!

BUT THERE WERE DEFINITELY THREE OF YOU ASSHOLES.
YOU PEOPLE HAD NO MANNERS AND NO CLASS
YEAH... THERE WERE DEFINITELY THREE...
OR MAYBE YOU JUST GOT ALONG IN A VIOLENT WAY...
I DUNNO IF YOU GOT ALONG WELL OR NOT..
I REMEMBER..

IT'S OKAY IF YOU CAN'T REMEMBER ANY MORE!
TSURU-UME-SAN! PLEASE STOP!!
RIGHT...
pain
pain
pain
SOMETHING HAPPENED WITH SHINSHU AND SASAKI-DONO...
!?
YOU WERE THE PRINCESS'S...
AH!
...DAMN IT. THIS IS ALL TEITEN'S DOING, ISN'T IT?
FUCKING HELL...
...SHE'S BELOVED BY TEITEN, WHO IS CAUSING ALL OF THIS TROUBLE
...I GUESS I OUGHT TO FEEL SORRY FOR SHINSHU.
SO SHE'S BEEN SHUT UP INSIDE THE SHRINE LIKE A PRIESTESS AND MADE UNTOUCHABLE WHENEVER SHE DOES VENTURE OUT...
...WE WERE ALWAYS SO STRICT WITH HER BECAUSE SHE CAUSED THE PRINCESS TO BE INJURED.
...? SHINSHU-CHAN?

I CAN'T IGNORE IT.
THE PRINCESS IS CALLING ME...
...TSURUME?
IS THIS ALRIGHT? ANYTHING I TELL YOU FROM HERE ON...
MUST NOT BE SPOKEN TO ANYONE
MOST OF WHAT I WILL SAY HAS NEVER BEEN TOLD BEFORE...
I AM TELLING THIS ONLY TO YOU.
BECAUSE, TSURUME, I WISH FOR YOU TO SAVE THAT GIRL
BUT WHY!!?
THAT GIRL... SHE...!
SHE'S BEEN TRICKED BY DEMONS, AND BECAUSE OF THAT, YOU WERE...!!
ALTHOUGH YOU WERE TOLD WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG TO COME HERE AND SERVE AT MY SIDE,
YOU AND THE OTHER MIKO WERE NOT ACTUALLY SENT TO PROTECT ME...
YOU WERE PROTECTING HER.

SHE HAS THE POWER TO SEE THE FUTURE
THE HEAD PRIESTESS OF THIS SHRINE
HAS ALWAYS BEEN SHINSHU
AND SHE IS THE REASON...
WHY I AM HERE
WHY...
ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS?
.....
"SHINSHU" REFERS TO "ARTIFICIAL CRIMSON PIGMENT."
"SHINSHU" EXISTS TO BE THE SHIELD THAT PROTECTS "SHINSHU."
I AM NOTHING MORE THAN A SUBSTITUTE FOR "SHINSHU."
...THAT'S...!! BUT PRINCESS, IF YOU'RE JUST A SUBSTITUTE AND NOT THE REAL PRIESTESS, THEN...

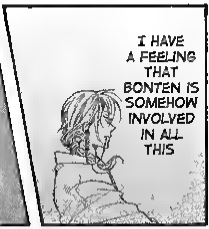
...!!
THAT CHILD DOES NOT SEEM TO GROW NY OLDER.
...THAT'S PROBABLY WHY...
AND IN THIS BODY, I ALSO DO NOT AGE.
IN ORDER TO STOP HER HEART FROM MATURING, HER BODY'S GROWTH HAS BEEN HALTED
...SUCH A THING SHOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR A NORMAL HUMAN, CORRECT?
SHE IS BELOVED BY HEAVEN...
THAT POOR CHILD.
BUT SHIN-SHU'S.
THE POWER BESTOWED ON ME IS NOT MINE,

I WAS REVIVED TO SERVE A SINGLE PURPOSE
...LIKE-WISE, I WAS PUT IN THIS FORM.
SURELY SHE HAD NO IDEA
THAT I WOULD RECIEVE SUCH A CURSE
...BUT FOR ME, THIS LIFE HOLDS NO VALUE.
PRIN-CESS...
!
.....
I
.....
?
TSURU-UME-SAN?

Sigh

I GUESS SHE'S TOO EXHAUSTED TO SPEAK
AND IT SEEMS LIKE HER BODY IS TIRED TOO
I WONDER IF SHE'LL BE OKAY

I GUESS THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN SHINSHU-CHAN AND TSURU-UME-SAN?
ABOUT SHINSHU-CHAN AFTER ALL


I HAVE A FEELING THAT BONTEN IS SOMEHOW INVOLVED IN ALL THIS

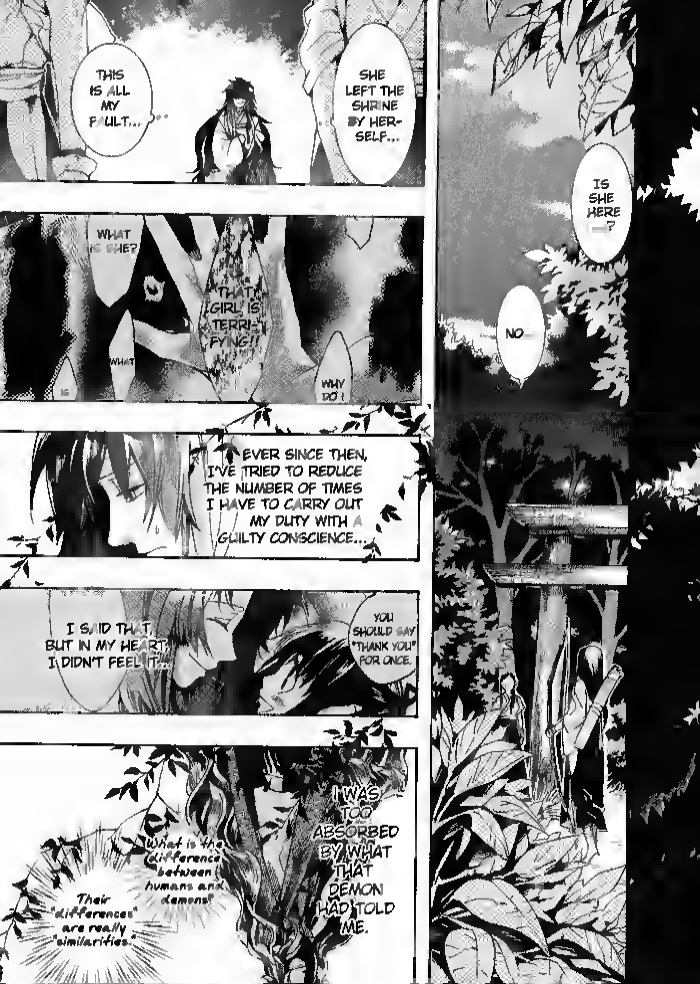
AND THAT BECAME THE MOTIVATION TO FIGHT AGAINST TEITEN
SOMETHING DOESN'T MAKE SENSE... I THINK

BUT THEY REALLY CARED ABOUT EACH OTHER
blank

flutter

PRIN-
CESS
?
WHAT
IS IT?
I WANTED
TO TALK
TO YOU
ABOUT
SHINSHU
....
WELL,
LATELY,
SHINSHU
HAS BEEN
SNEAKING
OUT OF HER
ROOM AND
RUNNING
OFF...
I THINK
SHE'S FOUND
A NEW
PLAYMATE...
BUT IT'S
NOT SOMEONE
FROM
THE SHRINE.

IT'S POSSIBLE...
NO ONE KNOWS WHERE SHE IS RIGHT NOW
SHOCK
WHAT?
SHE WENT OUTSIDE THE SHRINE?
SHE MIGHT COME BACK ON HER OWN.
NO, I'M LEAVING THE SHRINE IN YOUR CARE.
I'LL GO LOOK FOR HER!!
W...
WAIT, I'LL GO!
Pull
GRRRRR
WHAT!?
!!!
fu fu ~
And besides, if you go stomping after her, Tsuruume, she'll just run away!
ggg
"Even she knows it's true."
rustle
rustle
GRRR
GAH!!
_FINE!! I'LL KEEP WATCH!! BUT YOU BE EXTRA CAREFUL, OKAY!?
AND COME BACK SOON!!
OKAY!
I get it!!


THIS IS ALL MY FAULT...
SHE LEFT THE SHRINE BY HERSELF...
IS SHE HERE...?
NO...
WHAT IS SHE?
THAT GIRL IS TERRIFYING!!
WHAT IS
WHY DO I
EVER SINCE THEN, I'VE TRIED TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF TIMES I HAVE TO CARRY OUT MY DUTY WITH A GUILTY CONSCIENCE...
I SAID THAT, BUT IN MY HEART, I DIDN'T FEEL IT...
YOU SHOULD SAY "THANK YOU" FOR ONCE.
I WAS TOO ABSORBED BY WHAT THAT DEMON HAD TOLD ME.
What is the difference between humans and demons?
Their "differences" are really "similarities."

Because demons are born from the hearts of humans.
Pride
Prejudice.
Cruelty
Despair
Hatred
THESE THINGS FESTER WITHIN HUMANITY...
THEY INCREASE MORE AND MORE EVERY YEAR.
IS THIS THE CONSEQUENCE OF HUMAN NATURE..?
At this rate, demons will flood the earth and consume humankind
FOREIGN INVASION
IF THAT'S THE CASE, IS THERE ANY POINT IN EXORCISING DEMONS?
AND CRUSHES HUMANS THEMSELVES
HUMAN HATRED FILLS THE WORLD

BUT IT'S TOO DANGEROUS FOR YOU TO LEAVE THE SHRINE.
PRINCESS, PLEASE WAIT HERE.
MY APOLOGIES
Kneel

EVEN SO...
.....

THE PERSON SHE TURNS TO FOR ADVICE...
FOR SOMEONE TO BECOME SHIN-SHU'S PLAYMATE...

PRINCESS?
SHOCK

OH!
WHAT IS IT?
IT'S NO USE. WE CAN'T FIND HER.

PERHAPS SHE'S GONE DEEPER INTO THE FOREST...
WE WILL GO IN TEAMS TO SEARCH FOR HER.

IS THERE ANY-THING AT ALL THAT CAN BE DONE...?

BUT HUMANS CANNOT LIVE IN THIS FOREST SAVE FOR AT THE SHRINE!
THAT MEANS...
..OH, WHAT A SURPRISE. IS THAT YOU?
WE MEET AGAIN, HUMAN CHILD.
IT COULD BE HIM...!!
rustle
...OW!
rustle
rustle

HAVE YOU FOUND...
AN ANSWER TO MY QUES-TION?

I PROTECT SHINSHU.
AS "SHINSHU", I PROTECT HUMANS...
WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HUMANS AND DEMONS?
WHAT HE MEANT...
I WONDER...
I'VE NEVER BEEN GIVEN ANY ANSWERS.
WHERE HAVE YOU GONE?
FATHER, MOTHER...
AN ANSWER...
IS THE REASON FOR MY EXISTENCE.
ENSURING THAT THIS DUTY IS CARRIED OUT...
AND ARE GIVEN A DUTY THEY MUST FULFILL.
PEOPLE ARE BORN INTO A ROLE...
WHAT AM I DOING?
WHY?
OR THE HUMAN WHOSE VEINS RUN WITH POISONED BLOOD?
THE DEMON WHOSE WORDS ARE PLAYFUL AND TEASING?
WHICH OF US IS THE MORE MONSTROUS?
I WISH I KNEW.
ISN'T THAT WHAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN SAID?
DENY THEIR EXISTENCE, SO THERE ARE EXORCIST... TO SEE.
IF THERE IS A GOD...
IF I FULLY CARRY OUT MY ROLE,
THEN WHY DID HE CREATE A WORLD LIKE THIS...?
HOW COULD HE GIVE HIS BLESSING TO SUCH A CRUEL TRICK...?
...IF THERE IS A GOD...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS WORLD
MAYBE IT'S BETTER NOT TO KNOW
YOU ONLY TOLD ME WHAT YOU THINK
SO YOU FOUND YOUR ANSWER?
CERTAINLY
THE TRUTH CAN HURT
ONE MAY BE HAPPIER NOT KNOWING
IT'S EASY TO FIND PEACE IN A SMALL WORLD

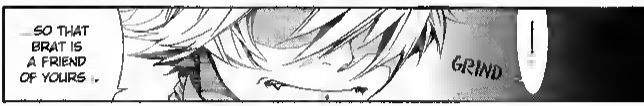
FOLLOW ME,
HUMAN CHILD
I CAN SATISFY ...
THAT EMPTINESS WITHIN YOU.
COME TO ME.
grip
YOU KNOW HOW IT FEELS.
AND SO DO I.
COME.
IF YOU CAN JUST TASTE THAT FEELING OF ACCOMPLISHMENT, YOU'LL BE MOMENTARILY HAPPY.
BUT YOU ARE NOT SATISFIED WITHOUT "KNOWING." IT'S LIKE A HOLE IN YOUR HEART.
IGNORANCE BRINGS YOU SHAME AND FEAR. YOU CRAVE THE RELIEF THAT KNOWLEDGE GIVES.

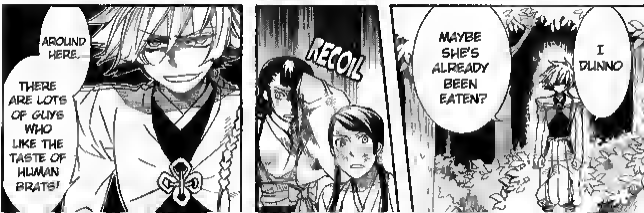
SCREECH
AH!!
WHAT!?
GRRRRR
SHIN-SHU!!
GRR
flutter
flutter
GRR
DEMON VOICES ...!?
WH— WHAT'S THIS!?
GRR
slither
slither

YOU BAS-TARDS!!
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK I'M DOING!?
LUNGE
DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN! HE'S STILL ATTACKING US!!
NO, IT'S A DE-MON!
...!! A CHILD?
GASP
SCR EECH
WAIT!!
.....!!
rustle
!!
rustle
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT IF YOU LEAVE THE BARRIER BY YOURSELF YOU'LL BE KILLED!?
YOU IDIOT!!
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON...!!?
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING HERE!?
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE SEEN YOU...
WHO THE HELL CARES!?
JUMP
rustle
crash
rustle
rustle
crash
TOO FAST...
rustle
rustle
crash
rustle
I CAN'T KEEP UP...!!
rustle

BUT THEIR AGES ARE SIMILAR...
talk
IMPOSSIBLE! DEMON OR NOT, HE'S STILL A CHILD!
talk
YOU DON'T MEAN THAT... SHINSHU-SAMA WAS TRICKED, DO YOU?
talk
talk
BUT CAN'T DEMONS FOOL HUMANS WITH WORDS!?
!
HAVE YOU SEEN A HUMAN CHILD AROUND HERE?
HEY, YOU!

IF HE TELLS THE TRUTH, MAYBE WE JUST MISSED HER.


SO THAT BRAT IS A FRIEND OF YOURS.
GRIND
!


AROUND HERE.
THERE ARE LOTS OF GUYS WHO LIKE THE TASTE OF HUMAN BRATS!
RECOIL
MAYBE SHE'S ALREADY BEEN EATEN?
I DUNNO

YOU MONSTER!!
YOU LITTLE BASTARD ...!!
gasp
I'D LIKE TO KILL HER WITH MY OWN HANDS!!
AND IF SHE'S ANY FRIEND OF YOURS...
rustle
huff
huff
huff
huff
!!!!

I... I'm doing my best!!
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
ARE YOU BEING SLOW ON PURPOSE!?
YOU'RE TOO SLOW!!
CAN'T YOU MOVE ANY FASTER!?

TCH!
AT THIS RATE, WE'LL NEVER CATCH UP TO BYAKU-ROKU!

huff
huff
Please don't as-sume that...
I'm like you!!
More-over,
These clothes make it really hard to move!
gasp!

.. THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE TALKING ABOUT THAT!
TCH!
AS USUAL, YOU'RE AN IDIOT.

SO "BYAKU-ROKU" IS THAT SNAKE'S NAME
WHICH MEANS YOU MUST HAVE ANOTHER NAME
sigh

!
MAY I ASK... YOUR REAL NAME?
gaze

rustle
YES, YES!
rustle
COME ON!!
I found you...
PHEEE
PHEEE
PHEEE
PHEEE
PHEEE
I
BYAKU-ROKU...!
rustle
WHAT?
shock

GRRR
RRR
GRRR
BYAKU-ROKU!!

HANA-MI
AMATSUKI
TRANSLATION & EDITING
SANADA
SCANS
ISHYA
RAW
NET
www.amatsukimanga.livejournal.com
www.hana-mi.net

# TRANSLATION NOTES - CHAPTER 45

Title: The literal translation of the title is "Butterfly's Claw." In Chinese mythology, the "shen" is a shapeshifting clam monsters that can create illusions.

Page 74: "Ginshu" and "shinshu" are both colors of red paint used in making high quality pottery. "Shinshu" is produced from cinnabar, a rare and very expensive mineral, while "ginshu" is an artificial pigment made by chemical reaction. The color of "ginshu" is slightly less vibrant than "shinshu."

Chapter 46: Butterfly's Illusion, Part 2
Amatsuki

WHAT IS THIS!?
—BYA-KURO-KU—
WHAT—ARE YOU DOING?
GRAIN

GAH !!
EEE !!
SPLASH

WHY
WHY WOULD YOU....

HOW COULD YOU BE SO CRUEL ....!?
WHY WOULD YOU KILL ALL THESE PEOPLE!?
ALL OF THEM ...

SUCH WEAK, UNDEVELOPED CREATURES AS THEY SHOULD KNOW THE LIMITS OF THEIR OWN BODIES AND ACT ACCORDINGLY.
I'VE SAID IT BEFORE.
YES, I KILLED THEM.
SUCH CRUELTY.
HUMANS DIE SO EASILY...
YOU WISH TO KNOW WHY?

I ALLOWED HUMANS TO COMMIT SUCH CRUELTY WHILE YOU WERE UNDER MY PROTECTION...
HUSS
TSUYUKUSA.....

NO! I ONLY WANTED TO PROTECT SHINSHU!
?

YOU...

DID THEY DO THIS ON YOUR ORDERS!?

WHERE HAVE YOU TAKEN THE LITTLE GIRL!?
SHIN-SHU... WHERE IS SHIN-SHU!!?

PERHAPS SHE'S LOST SOMEWHERE IN THAT MOUNTAIN OF CORPSES?
Laugh
OH...

PRIN-
CESS!!
PLEASE
MOVE
ASIDE!
!?
gasp
trembling
WHY
WHY
WOULD
YOU
TO
SHIN
SHU
?
SFX. WHOOSH

HYA-
KURO-
KU!!
SFX. FWOOSH

HIWA

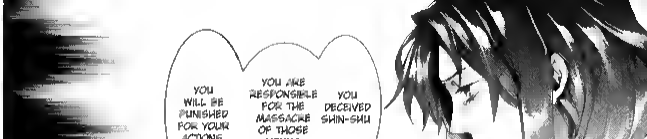
STOP

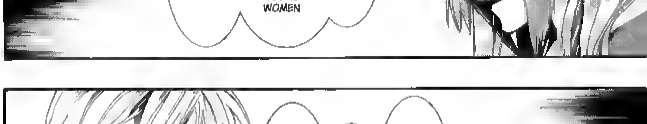
SHIN-SHU!!
PRIN-CESS! COME THIS WAY!!
NII-SAMA!
SFX. DASH

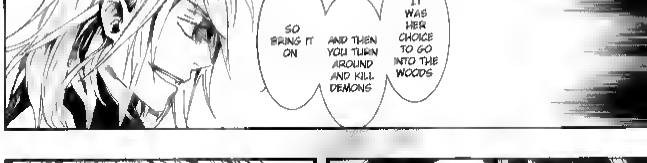
SHIN-SHU...!!
ARE YOU HURT!?
THANK GOODNESS!
!?
SHE DUG HERSELF OUT FROM UNDER THEM.
SHE'S A STRONG LITTLE GIRL
I DON'T THINK SHE HAS ANY SERIOUS INJURIES
SHIN SHU
NII SA
IT'S OKAY DON'T TRY TO SPEAK
TAKE HER BACK TO THE SHRINE IMMEDIATELY!!
AND CALL A DOCTOR!
YES!
BYA-KURO-KU!!
IT'S NOTHING
THESE CAN
SCARELY PIERCE MY SCALES
AND TSUYU-KUSA?
HA HA!
HA HA
WH?
WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING!?
WHY INDEED
IT'S AMUSING ISN'T IT?

THIS IS...
ALL MY FAULT, ISN'T IT?
I NEVER NOTICED
THAT LOOK IN HER EYES
THE SNAKE WHO SUCCUMBED TO TEMPTATION
...
AND SASAKI-SAMA IS VISITING IN THE AFTERNOON
BUT A FAMOUS PRIEST IS VISITING TODAY...
THERE ARE OTHER VISITORS AS WELL.
I'VE GOT NO new friends to play with! she said
And I thought nothing of these strangers I wasn't there for her
WOW, THIS GIRL
FINE THEN.
BUT SHINSHU-SAMA
IS THIS...
MY FAULT?
I NEVER NOTICED
BYAKUROKU'S REAL INTENTIONS
AND THE FOOLISH, EASILY SWAYED HUMAN.
I'M FINE OKAY?
EAGER TO DISAPPOINT YOU, HUH?
I WARNED YOU, BUT YOU DID NOT LISTEN
I HEARD YOU'VE BEEN CAPTURED BY THE HOLY PRINCESS. I WAS SO WORRIED
THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE ALRIGHT
BUT THIS SUITS MY NATURE - AFTER ALL, YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT.
ARE BOTH HUMANS AND DEMONS?
HEY WHAT'S SO TYPE PINK?

ONCE YOU HAVE TASTED
SPRING
OTOROSHI MODOKI-SAN!
HURRY UP, IT'S YOUR TURN
YOU CAN NEVER GO BACK


YOU WILL BE PUNISHED FOR YOUR ACTIONS
YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MASSACRE OF THOSE YOUNG WOMEN
YOU DECEIVED SHIN-SHU


SO BRING IT ON
AND THEN YOU TURN AROUND AND KILL DEMONS
IT WAS HER CHOICE TO GO INTO THE WOODS


THIS WILL BE

OUR FINAL CONFRONTATION

I...
JUST WANTED TO... PLAY...
I DIDN'T KNOW THEY WERE DEMONS...
I... DIDN'T
I'M SORRY
WAIT
W
SO I WAS BORED...
YOU WERE ALWAYS BUSY...
*sob*
*sob*
SHIN-SHU?
NII-SAMA!

SEE...
I TOLD YOU.
I CONSIDERED IT THE PRACTICE OF THE WEAK AND DULL-MINDED SO I NEVER TRIED IT BEFORE
IT HELD NO ATTRACTION FOR ME UNTIL NOW.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
...WHOA, HOLD ON.
DON'T YOU KNOW EATING MEAT IS TABOO?
BUT NOW THAT I HAVE BATHED IN IT...
I FEEL STRONGER...
I FIND IT QUITE REFRESHING.
HUMAN BLOOD IS DIRTY, SO I HAVE NEVER HAD ANY INTEREST IN IT.

I THOUGHT THE FOREST WOULD BE FUN.
SO I WENT ...
NOW I UNDER-STAND
THEY SAID IT WOULD BE FUN
NOT SAME

GINSHU!"...

"...THE DUTY OF"

...IS TO
...AND
...SLAY
...THE
...DEMONS

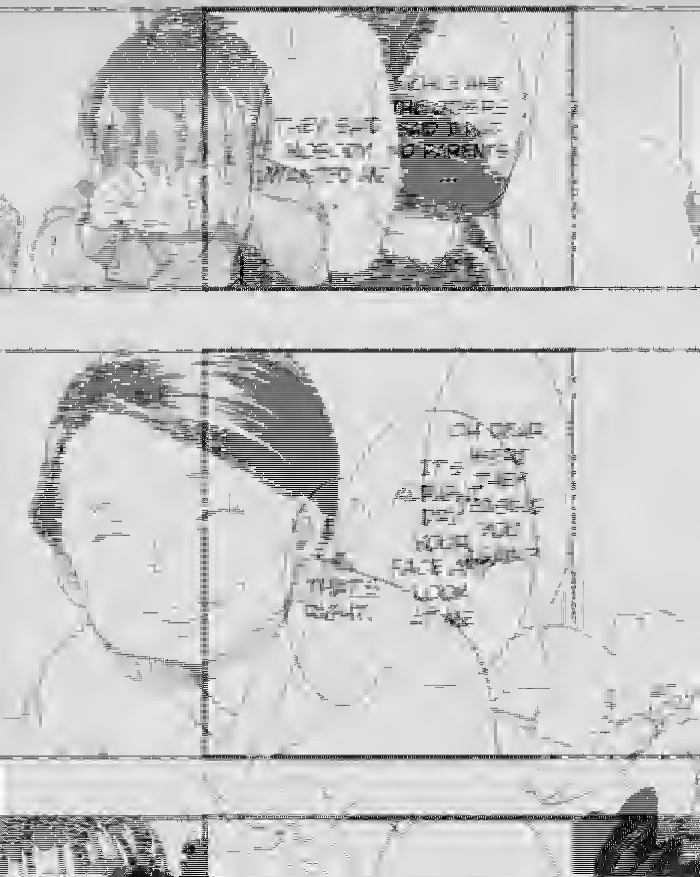
SHIN-SHI
SOU
WHAT ARE YOU DOING
TOLD
...!?
I TOLD YOU TO RUN AWAY !!
NI-SAKA
NI-SAKA

IS IT THAT HARD TO BELIEVE?
IS THE TREE ACROSS THE PLANET A TREE?
TREE?
WHAT DID YOU SAY?

IMPOS-SIBLE
...
YOU CAN'T BE
...
BYAKU-ROKU !!
HAHA HA
I SEE
I DID NOT ANTICIPATE THIS
...
STAB STAB

GINE
-SA
TAKE
SHINSHU
GAWA
AND RUN,
PLEASE.

THE



IS TO KEEP THIS LONELY KOURO COMPANY
AND YOUR FIRST DUTY ...
THAN I CAN HAVING WITH GREATER TREASURE ...

-SIGH-
YOU'VE ALWAYS WATCHED OVER ME UNTIL NOW
WE MAY NOT SEE EACH OTHER

FOR AS LONG AS I LIVE, I WILL NEVER FORGET YOUR NAME

HAVE I DONE WELL? HAVE I...
KOUJI-SAMA...?

Hana-Mi
Amatsuki 46
Hana-mi

Chapter 47
Butterfly's Illusion Part 3

TO PROTECT YOU...
SO...
IT SEEMS THAT "GINSHU" HAS USED HIS BODY
SHOCK
THIS PRINCESS HAD
WHAT BLIND DEVOTION
WHAT A PITY THAT YOU CARELESSLY LEFT THE PROTECTIVE BARRIER
HAHA, SO YOU TRULY WERE HIS LITTLE SISTER.
LET US GO TOGETHER.

...!
I AM NOT LONG FOR THIS WORLD
THE POISON OF THE PRINCESS BLOOD IS CIRCULATING WITHIN ME
HIWA.
HIWA. MY LITTLE BIRD
NOTE: "SHINSHU" AND "SHINSHU" ARE BOTH WRITTEN WITH THE KANJI FOR "
BUT I WILL TAKE THOSE TWO "REDS" WITH ME
AFTER-WARDS YOU MAY DO WHAT YOU LIKE
LONG AGO YOU PLAYFULLY REACHED FOR MY OUT-STRETCHED HAND
TSUYU-KUSA, AND THIS FOREST
I ENTRUST THEM TO YOU
WITH YOUR TINY ONE.
I RE-MEMBER THAT FONDLY
AND WITH PRIDE
BE STRONG
THAT TINY HAND REACHED FOR MINE

WE WERE NEVER BLOOD RELATIVES...

I NEVER KNEW... WERE YOU HUMAN OR DEMON?

HEY! QUIT BEING SO SELFISH!
DON'T TALK LIKE THAT...
WHAT IS SHE... WHAT IS THAT GIRL...?
TO SACRIFICE ONESELF TO SAVE ANOTHER?
IS IT SUCH A TERRIBLE THING...
DIDN'T I TELL YOU...?
THAT GIRL IS MY... BE-LOVED LITTLE SISTER
HAVE FAITH...
I MUST GO, BUT FOR A TIME...
SHIN...
SHU...

SLA-
I TRULY LOVED YOU.
R... RUN...
gasp
SLASH
ROOOAR
GRAB

I
COULD
HEAR
...

HIS SILENT
SCREAM ECHO...

What is "life?"
A DUTY TO UPHOLD.
IT IS A TRIAL TO BE PASSED.

What is "death?"
FROM LIFE...
...AN ESCAPE
It is not an escape.
No escape.
There is...
SNAP

LOOM
Whether to a garden at the end of this world or to an island floating upon a vast ocean,
Or to a distant shore.
There is no escape.
A DEMON?
I am neither human nor demon.
In part or in whole,
stare
I have been here since the beginning.
Now, something has been born...
twitch
For me to watch over.
MENACE
For me to think that.

CLAW
Are just birds in a cage.
Humans and demons...
Are not in their hands.
Life and death...
There is no escape.
For you...
Open your eyes.

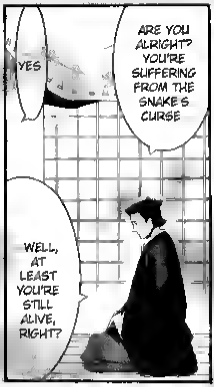
WHAT ...
sob
IS THIS ...!?
...AH.
SO DON'T CRY.
IF I CAN DO IT...
HE COULD LIVE FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS
SO IF I GO THIS FAR, THE DEMON'S BODY SHOULD BE ALRIGHT
THE POISON IN BYAKUROKU'S BODY BELONGED TO GINSHU, AND THERE WAS NO OTHER FATAL WOUND.
—WITH THIS, HE'LL BE BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE—
SW
Open
your
eyes.
N

AH.
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO CHEAT DEATH
BYA-KU-ROKU ? OR...
SHOULD I CALL YOU "PRINCESS?"
WHAT?
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE...
TO ME?
COUGH
CRACK
...!
BRO-THER!
CRASH
fall
BRO-THER!

SHIN SHU
SHIN
BRO-THER.
OUCH
DASH
BRO-THER!!
YOU COULD SAY "THANK YOU", YOU KNOW?
IT'S THANKS TO THIS THAT I WAS ABLE TO BRING YOU BACK.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND
WHAT HAP-PENED?

WHY AM I ALIVE?
rustle
WHY DOES HE LOOK AT ME LIKE I'M SOMEONE HE DOESN'T KNOW?

YES


YES
ARE YOU ALRIGHT? YOU'RE SUFFERING FROM THE SNAKE'S CURSE
WELL, AT LEAST YOU'RE STILL ALIVE, RIGHT?

OH PRINCESS, THIS IS TERRIBLE
HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN ?
HOW COULD HE
THAT DAMNED DEMON

rustle
I KNOW IT'S YOU.
IDIOT WILL NEVER LEARN
THE MOON IS OUT, AND HE'S STILL GOING FOR A WALK ALONE.
... IT'S BRIGHT.
WELL THEY CAN CERTAINLY TRY
IF THEY WANT TO SEE ANOTHER MOUNTAIN OF CORPSES... THAT IS
THE SHRINE'S DEFENSES HAVE BEEN CONSIDERARLY STRENGTHENED
IF YOU'RE FOUND HERE YOU'LL BE KILLED

PRINCESS
SO?
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO SHAME -LESSLY CHEAT DEATH?
THEN WHAT SHOULD I CALL YOU?
IF YOU'RE CALLING ME THAT... OH
OR SHALL I CALL YOU BYAKUROKU, "LORD OF HEAVEN'S SEAT"?
HIWA, PERHAPS? OR DO YOU STILL HATE THAT NAME?
I'M SURE HE STILL REMAINS IN SOME ASPECT...
WELL
SINCE IT'S HIS BODY
AS FOR BYAKU -ROKU
HE'S MORE OR LESS...
OH, RIGHT

JUST AS YOU ARE UNSURE OF WHAT TO CALL YOURSELF—
I AM NOT GINSHU ANYMORE. NOR AM I SYAKUROKU.
WHO AM I?
YOU'RE GINSHU!
THE HOLY PRINCESS
HAHA
YOU THINK I CAN BE THE HOLY PRINCESS WITH A BODY LIKE THIS?
THAT'S UNHEARD OF
THIS BODY
REJECTS MY SOUL
MY BODY WITHERS AND DIES EVERY DAY
AH, BUT JUST WHEN THE PAIN IS SO GREAT I THINK I'LL DIE, THE SKIN CRACKS AND I EMERGE ANEW.
YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO NOT BE ABLE TO DIE?
IT'S PROBABLY THE WORST SITUATION I CAN IMAGINE

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO US!?
WHAT...
WHAT ARE YOU!?
WHY DID YOU TRAP MY SOUL IN SOMEONE ELSE'S BODY!?
WHY DID YOU DO THIS TO ME!?
WHY...
I CAME TO ASK WHY
grip
WHY DID YOU DO THIS TO ME?
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE THAT STUPID
NO, THAT'S NOT IT
DID YOU COME HERE JUST TO MAKE ME FEEL GUILTY?
WE'RE TRAPPED IN A NET!?
WHY IS IT LIKE

Ha ha
IT'S RIGHT TO CALL IT A "NET."
EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE IS CAUGHT IN IT. IT'S THE LAW THAT ENVELOPS THIS WORLD
BYAKUROKU COULD SEE IT, BUT IT WAS SOMETHING NATURAL TO HIM, SO HE OVERLOOKED IT.
YOU KNEW YOU WERE DOING SOMETHING IMPOSSIBLE SO YOU NOTICED
!
...I SEE. SO BYAKUROKU IS GONE, AND THE PRINCESS IS GONE.
MAYBE YOU BOTH KNEW ...
YOU WERE FATED TO MEET LIKE THIS.

drop
HEAVEN?
!
NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY YOUR FAITH ISN'T IN GODS OR BUDDHA
HEAVEN ISN'T SOME VAGUE FORCE THAT METES OUT SALVATION OR PUNISHMENT.
THE TRUTH IS ...
touch
HEAVEN IT DOESN'T JUST CARE LOOKS DOWN ON US
stab
WE SHOULD CALL IT HEAVEN'S NET... THE BLUEPRINT FOR THIS WORLD.

SLIDE
AH!
WAAH!
LOOK
IT'S ALRIGHT
CALM DOWN
AH...
UHAH...
AHHH
AHHH
GINSHU
LOOK
AH!
THIS IS YOUR "HEAVEN'S NET"
IT'S NOT JUST HUMANS AND DEMONS
EVERYTHING BOTH LIVING AND NON LIVING HAS ONE
THIS IS WHAT I PULLED FROM YOUR BODY AND TRANSFERED
INTO BYAKU-ROKU'S BODY
THIS IS HOW I KEPT YOUR DYING SOUL IN THIS WORLD

NOTE: THE KANJI FOR "RESET" HAVE BEEN PHONETICALLY GLOSSED WITH THE WORD FOR "CHANGE" BUT I THINK "RESET" IS MORE SPECIFIC IN MEANING

SHE'S ALSO THE ONLY ONE WITH THE POWER TO MOVE HEAVEN'S NET FORWARD
HER POWER IS TO SEE THE FUTURE BUT IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE.
WITH HER TOUCH, THIS IS THE UNCHANGEABLE FUTURE THAT HEAVEN'S NET WILL PROGRESS TOWARDS.
AND WOULDN'T YOU, WHO HAS BEEN BY HER SIDE KNOW THIS BETTER THAN ANYONE?

CONTROLS WERE SET IN PLACE SO SHE WOULD NOT HAVE UNDUE INFLUENCE ON HEAVEN'S NET
SHE IS RARE AND INTERESTING. SO HEAVEN HAS CHOSEN TO OBSERVE WITHOUT INTERVENING.
BUT HER NIGHTMARES COME TRUE
HER POWER IS COMPLETELY UNCONSCIOUS

THE EQUILIBRIUM WAS BROKEN
BUT THANKS TO YOU...
tap
SO ALL OF THE RISK FACTORS WERE HIDDEN AWAY INSIDE A FOREST. INSIDE A SHRINE. INSIDE HER HEART.
TO KEEP HER FROM GROWING LONELY AND HAVING TOO MANY DISRUPTIVE NIGHTMARES SHE WAS GIVEN "GINSHU."
ALL TO ENSURE HER STABILITY AND HAPPINESS
HER GROWTH WAS HALTED TO KEEP HER ETERNALLY CHILDLIKE.
SHE WAS PLACED IN A SHRINE AND GRANTED SOCIAL STATUS

BRO-
THER!!
NO!!
SFX: "SLASH"
SHE GREW ATTACHED NOT TO "GINSHU"... BUT TO YOU.
WITHOUT YOU, SHE'D REJECT THE WORLD
SHE'D DESTROY EVERY-THING
RIGHT NOW, WE'VE JUST AVERTED A DISASTER

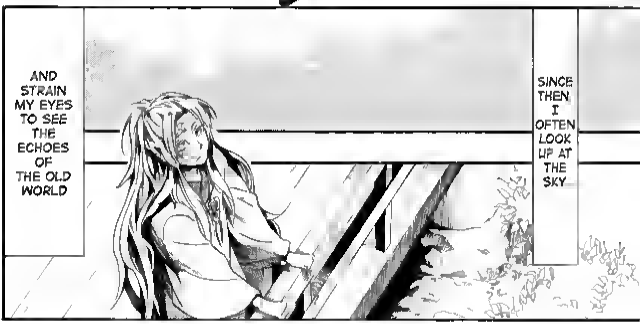
AND IT LOOKS LIKE THE ONE GRANTED THE POWER TO ACCOMPLISH ALL THIS...
WAS ME, HUH?

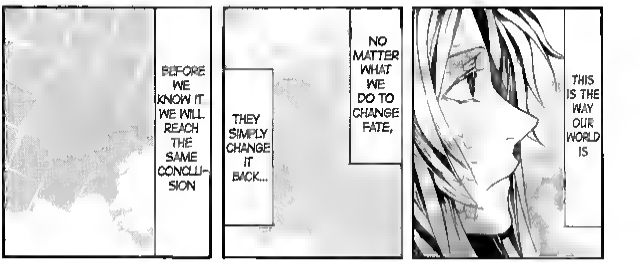
HEAVEN ITSELF HAD TO TAKE ACTION.
IN ORDER TO COUNTERACT HER POWER,
HEAVEN'S NET WAS RE-WOVEN TO BRING YOU BACK TO LIFE
SHE'S BEEN STRONGLY WARNED THAT YOUR CONTINUED EXISTENCE IS AT STAKE.
YOU'LL BE LIKE A COLLAR FOR HER.

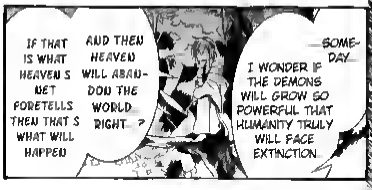
IF THERE IS A HEAVEN
IF THERE IS A GOD
THEN HOW COULD HE DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS!?
SHINSHU DIDN'T ASK FOR THIS TO HAPPEN!
IS THIS SUPPOSED TO BE AN ACT OF MERCY!?
THIS CAN'T BE POSSIBLE!!
ARE YOU TRYING TO TAUNT ME!?
PLEASE DON'T MAKE SUCH CRUEL JOKES!!

I TOLD YOU HEAVEN ISN'T GOD OR BUDDHA.
...
...
HEA-VEN
WON'T SAVE ANY OF US.
NOT HUMANS OR DEMONS.
HEAVEN DOESN'T CARE ABOUT US.
THIS WORLD IS JUST THE BY-PRODUCT OF HEAVEN'S NET
THAT'S ALL
THEY DON'T CARE HOW IT ENDS

GINSHU...
IN YOU, I CAN FINALLY SEE IT...
I SEE HOW TO READ THE WORDS OF HEAVEN'S NET
SO.
IN YOUR EYES...
IN YOUR BODY...
MAYBE I'LL FIND THE TRUTH


SINCE THEN, I OFTEN LOOK UP AT THE SKY...
AND STRAIN MY EYES TO SEE THE ECHOES OF THE OLD WORLD


THIS IS THE WAY OUR WORLD IS
NO MATTER WHAT WE DO TO CHANGE FATE,
THEY SIMPLY CHANGE IT BACK...
BEFORE WE KNOW IT WE WILL REACH THE SAME CONCLUSION


SOMEDAY...
I WONDER IF THE DEMONS WILL GROW SO POWERFUL THAT HUMANITY TRULY WILL FACE EXTINCTION.
AND THEN HEAVEN WILL ABANDON THE WORLD RIGHT...?
IF THAT IS WHAT HEAVEN'S WET FORETELLS THEN THAT'S WHAT WILL HAPPEN

YOU'VE ALWAYS HATED FEELING INFERIOR TO HUMANS, SO I DON'T THINK YOU REALLY WANT TO EITHER, HMM?
...QUIT TALKING LIKE BYAKU-ROKU.
OR I'LL KILL YOU!

AND I AM LEFT...

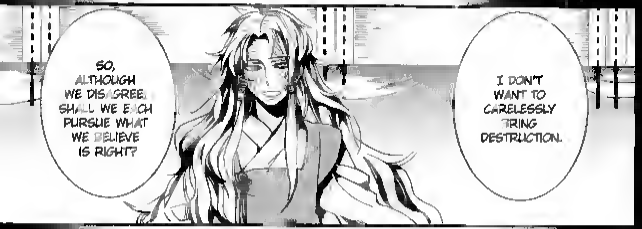
WITH NOTHING BUT THIS UNDYING BODY AND A SENSE OF HELPLESSNESS.

I... I'VE REALIZED SOME-THING
NO MATTER WHAT I SAY...
LIKE SEEING THE MOON ON A RAINY NIGHT
THIS IS A PLACE THAT SHOULDN'T EXIST
IF NOT FOR HEAVEN THIS PLACE COULD NEVER EXIST
SO THIS WORLD IS LIKE "AMATSUKI" ...I SUPPOSE
whether to a garden at the end of this world
Or to a distant shore...
...WELL, WE CALL THE PLACE WHERE HEAVEN EXISTS "NIRVANA", DON'T WE?
...BUT HEAVEN WILL MERELY WATCH US FROM THE DISTANT SHORE OF A GREAT RIVER FOR AS LONG AS THIS WORLD IS A USEFUL TOOL
HOW MANY TIMES MUST WE MEET AND EXCHANGE THESE WORDS?
...I GUESS SO.
THE WARMTH THAT WAS ONCE FELT BETWEEN US IS GONE

I WANT NOTHING TO DO WITH A "HEAVEN" LIKE THAT
HONG
OOPS!
AND I'M NOT JUST SAYING THAT BECAUSE THEY CAN'T HEAR ME
IF YOU'VE AWAKENED TO THE MOON ON A RAINY NIGHT
THEN MY WISH IS FOR THE DAWN TO COME AND CUT THROUGH THOSE CLOUDS

WE KEEP MEETING LIKE THIS...
BECAUSE IT'S WHAT WE'RE USED TO.

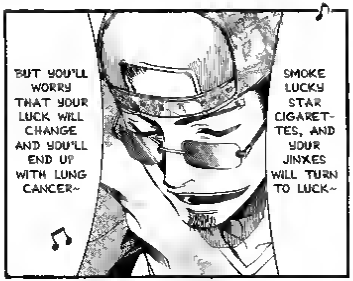
WE'RE TOO WEAK TO FACE THIS ALONE.



WHICH WILL BE DES-TROYED IN THE END?
HUMANS OR DEMONS...
...I UNDER-STAND
WE WILL LIKELY... BRING DESPAIR TO THIS WORLD.

Hana-Awase
Amatsuki Fans
Translator
Cleaners
Typesetters
Quality Checker
あまつき

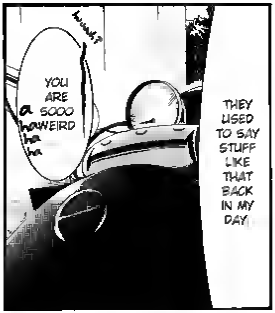
THIS WILL LIKELY...
BRING DESPAIR TO THIS WORLD.
CLOSE IT UP TIGHT
INSIDE A BOWL SHAPED CONTAINER
AND NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO STRETCH THEIR ARMS OR LEGS~
rattle
THE WORLD'S FILLING UP WITH DESPAIR~
IT'S FILLING UP WITH THE WATER OF SADNESS~
rattle
...SUOU...
WHAT'S UP...
WITH THAT WEIRD GONG?


SMOKE LUCKY STAR CIGARETTES, AND YOUR JINXES WILL TURN TO LUCK~
BUT YOU'LL WORRY THAT YOUR LUCK WILL CHANGE AND YOU'LL END UP WITH LUNG CANCER~

I LIKE IT
IT'S GOT A GOOD MELODY
IT WAS UPLOADING ANONYMOUSLY ON SOME WEBSITE
HMM? OH, IT WAS A BIG HIT ON THE NET A LONG TIME AGO
REALLY?

LUCKY STAR? SHOW, DO YOU SMOKE THOSE?
AH WELL

WELL, WHATEVER THEY SAID
I'D ALWAYS MAKE SURE TO GET LUCKY STARS
HUFF
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH BEING A BELIEVER?


HUHUH?
YOU ARE SOOO WEIRD
THEY USED TO SAY STUFF LIKE THAT BACK IN MY DAY!

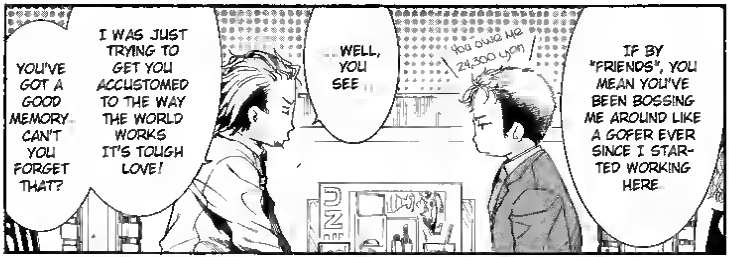
THE WORLD IS LOOKING FOR ITS LUCKY
RIGHT NOW,
LUCKY STAR

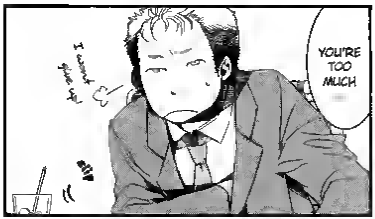
# Chapter 48

## Late Spring Rain

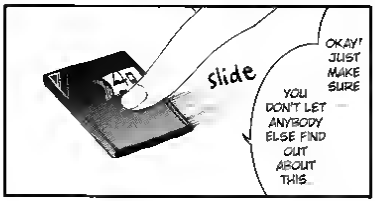
Note: The real title is "Unohanakutashi" which literally means "Rotting Tofu." The explanation is that rain and humidity in late spring, before the start of the normal rainy season, would make tofu and tofu by-products rot quickly. "Rotting Tofu" is actually a seasonal word used in haiku poetry to refer to the month of May.

COME ON, HASHITA-SAN, BE REASONA-BLE!
YOU'RE GOING TO GET ME IN TROUBLE!
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT!?
WE'RE OLD FRIENDS, AREN'T WE?


IF BY "FRIENDS", YOU MEAN YOU'VE BEEN BOSSING ME AROUND LIKE A GOFER EVER SINCE I STARTED WORKING HERE
You owe me 29,300 yen!
...WELL, YOU SEE
I WAS JUST TRYING TO GET YOU ACCUSTOMED TO THE WAY THE WORLD WORKS IT'S TOUGH LOVE!
YOU'VE GOT A GOOD MEMORY CAN'T YOU FORGET THAT?

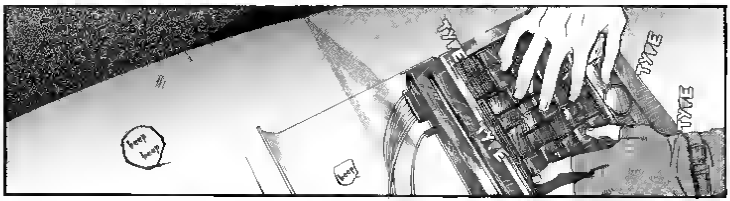

YOU'RE TOO MUCH
I cannot give up.

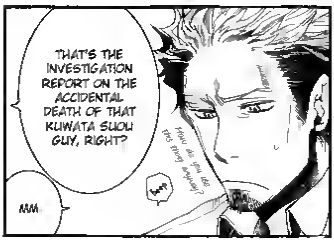
COME ON, WE'RE BUDDIES, AREN'T WE?
THIS IS JUST LIGHT CHAT BETWEEN BUDS! NOTHING SERIOUS!
QUIT NAGGING!...
OKAY?


slide
OKAY! JUST MAKE SURE YOU DON'T LET ANYBODY ELSE FIND OUT ABOUT THIS

YEAH, KIND OF.
ISN'T IT OUT-DATED?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THIS STUFF, ANYWAY?
THANK YOU SOOO MUCH!! I'M SAVED!
UM, HASHITA-SAN
YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF GOING BACK TO DETECTIVE WORK, ARE YOU?
I WISH YOU'D LISTEN TO ME FOR ONCE.
clatter
FOR YOU TO KEEP BEING A DETECTIVE WOULD BE TOTALLY WRONG!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO, BUT...

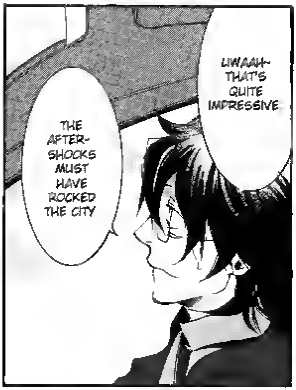
Ah!
HASHITA-SAN!
clatter
See ya!
THANKS!
LET'S GET TOGETHER FOR A DRINK SOMETIME!


TAKE
TAKE
TAKE
hurry hurry
hurry


THAT'S THE INVESTIGATION REPORT ON THE ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF THAT KUWATA SUUOU GUY, RIGHT?
MM
HOW DO YOU DO IT SO QUICKLY?
hurry

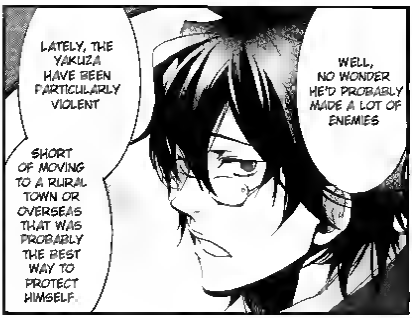
HERE YOU GO, HASHITA-SAN.
MM
I DON'T

WHEN HE OUTGREW THE GANG, HE RELIED ON THE SPEED OF HIS BIKE AND THE SIZE OF HIS SMILE TO START HIS OWN SMUGGLING BUSINESS.
HE WAS ALWAYS GETTING INTO SOME KIND OF TROUBLE HE WAS IN A BIKER GANG IN SHINJUKU AND EVERYTHING.
BUT I HEARD HE QUIT THE BUSINESS AFTER HE GOT INVOLVED IN SOME BIG INCIDENT?
HE WAS SAFE, RELIABLE AND FAST - JUST LIKE A DELIVERY GUY SHOULD BE
FROM DELIVERING DOCU-MENTS TO DELIVERING PEOPLE,
OH YEAH HE WAS PRETTY WELL KNOWN IN THE BLACK MARKET
HE DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THEM, BUT HE GOT ARRESTED ANYWAY
AND THREATENING THE PRESIDENT OF SOME MEGA-BANK!
NATURALLY, THERE WAS A HUGE SCARE
...HE HAD SHITTY LUCK, THAT'S ALL BACK THEN SOME IDIOT WAS MAKING BOMBS.
TEN MOB BOSSES ENDED UP GETTING ARRESTED.
AND IN THE END,
THE YAKUZA WERE BEHIND IT ALL
OH, YES
THAT INCIDENT.
THAT IS WHAT HAPPE-NED

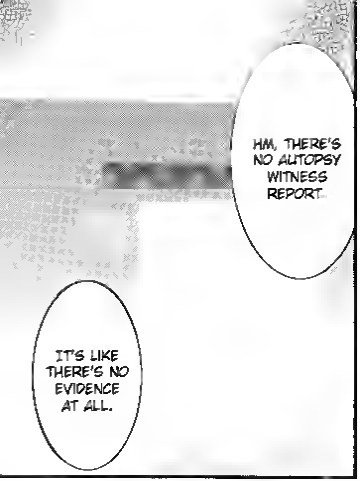

UWAAH- THAT'S QUITE IMPRESSIVE
THE AFTER-SHOCKS MUST HAVE ROCKED THE CITY

AROUND THIRTY PEOPLE GOT ARRESTED ON OTHER CHARGES
THE OPPORTUNITY WAS THERE SO IT WAS AS EASY AS SQUEEZING PUS FROM A PIMPLE
AND WHO KNOWS HOW MANY LOWER YAKUZA GOT NABBED
SUOU WAS AN INFORMANT - HE SNITCHED

NOPE, HE QUIT BECAUSE HE WANTED OUT
SO THAT'S WHY THE BUSINESS WENT UNDER
I GUESS HIS CREDIBILITY WAS DESTROYED
IT GOT PRETTY ROUGH FOR SUOU
WELL YOU KNOW
ER-

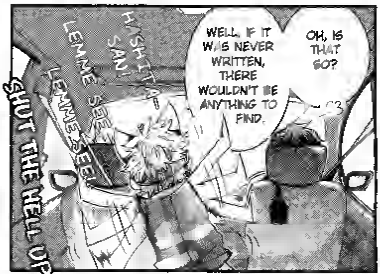

LATELY, THE YAKUZA HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY VIOLENT
SHORT OF MOVING TO A RURAL TOWN OR OVERSEAS THAT WAS PROBABLY THE BEST WAY TO PROTECT HIMSELF.
WELL, NO WONDER HE'D PROBABLY MADE A LOT OF ENEMIES

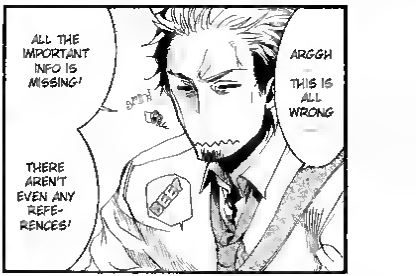
HE GOT NEW SUNGLASSES AND CHANGED HIS HAIR.
HE DITCHED THE BIKE SO HE'D LOOK LIKE EVERY OTHER DRIVER.


HM, THERE'S NO AUTOPSY WITNESS REPORT.
IT'S LIKE THERE'S NO EVIDENCE AT ALL.

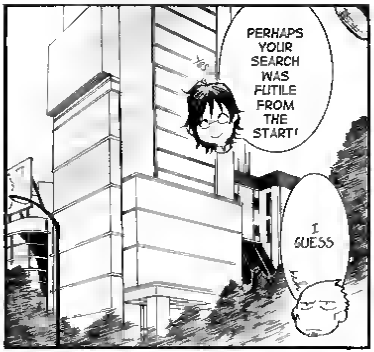
SO WHY DIDN'T HE JUST REPORT ALL OF THE BAD GUYS, THEN?
I THOUGHT THE SAME THING BACK THEN...

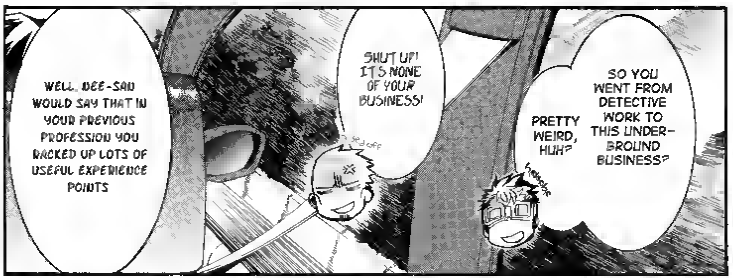
IT'S SUPER FREAKY, MAN
ISN'T IT?
THAT'S LIKE, SUPER FREAKY, MAN
OOOH.
IT WASN'T A SUICIDE, SO THERE SHOULD BE SOMETHING
DON'T TALK LIKE THAT...

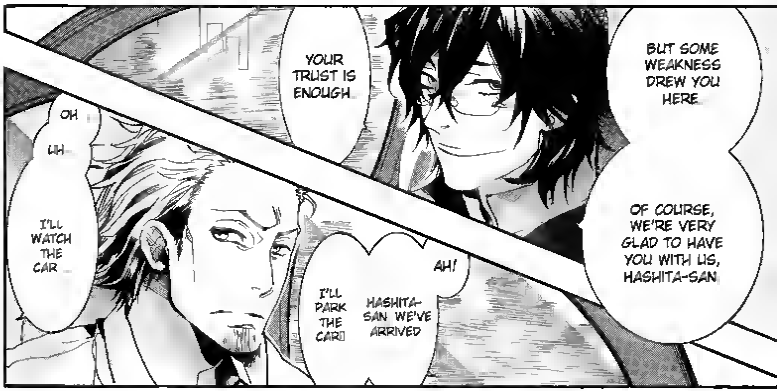

HYSHTTA-
SAW!
LEMME SEE!
LEMME SEE!
SHUT THE HELL UP!!
WELL, IF IT WAS NEVER WRITTEN, THERE WOULDN'T BE ANYTHING TO FIND.
OH, IS THAT SO?


ALL THE IMPORTANT INFO IS MISSING!
THERE AREN'T EVEN ANY REFE-RENCES!
ARGGH
THIS IS ALL WRONG...

AHAHA NOW WE HAVE TO RUN ERRANDS FOR MY DEAR SISTER!
Aww, underlings to work, huh?
BUT HASHITA-SAN, YOU GOT THIS INFO YOU'VE BEEN AFTER...
WHICH MEANS YOU ACTUALLY HAVE UNDERLINGS WHO LIKE YOU!
AMAZING!
.....
SHUDDER


PERHAPS YOUR SEARCH WAS FUTILE FROM THE START!
I GUESS


WELL, DEE-SAN WOULD SAY THAT IN YOUR PREVIOUS PROFESSION YOU RACKED UP LOTS OF USEFUL EXPERIENCE POINTS
SHUT UP! IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
PRETTY WEIRD, HUH?
SO YOU WENT FROM DETECTIVE WORK TO THIS UNDERGROUND BUSINESS?
Hmmmm


OH
UH
I'LL WATCH THE CAR...
YOUR TRUST IS ENOUGH
BUT SOME WEAKNESS DREW YOU HERE
OF COURSE, WE'RE VERY GLAD TO HAVE YOU WITH US, HASHITA-SAN
AH!
I'LL PARK THE CAR
HASHITA-SAN WE'VE ARRIVED

Wah!
LILY! PAPA'S BACK! I MISSED YOU SOOO MUCH!
wadn
run run run
I HEARD YOU'VE BEEN DOING WELL IN SCHOOL
LILY-CHAN
flop
run
SLIP
run run run
run run
run run run run run
HASHITA-SAN? COME NOW, DON'T DAWDLE
YOU SHOULD HEAD IN TO SEE THE DOCTOR
YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO KEEP HER WAITING!
I DID GOOD?
THAT'S RIGHT! SO WE CAN BUY ALL OF YOUR FAVORITE FRUITS WHEN WE GO OUT♡
I CHANGE MY MIND

OH, HOW NICE TO SEE YOU, HASHITA-SAN I APPRECIATE YOUR COMING HERE
rustle
IT'S NOTHING
YOU CAN THANK LILY.
FUFU
YOU'RE SPEAKING SO FORMALLY!
I LIKE THAT!
WELL, THEN
LILY-CHAN, HMM?
SHE'S AT EASE HERE,
AND THAT'S A GOOD THING, I THINK.
SHE'S AT THE AGE
WHERE HER TASTES IN FOOD AND CLOTHING AND THE LIKE ARE BEGINNING TO DEVELOP.
HER SPEECH AND VOCABULARY IS ALSO IMPROVING.
YEAH. SHE RANDOMLY STARTS CONVERSATIONS WITH ANYBODY NEARBY.

OH NO, HAHAHA
There's no way!
IS THAT SO BAD?
OH YES, EVERY-ONE!
AND THEY SEEMS TO BE HAVING A GOOD INFLUENCE ON HER!
PERHAPS SHE LIKES EVERYONE ELSE MORE THAN HER PAPA?
HER HIPPO-CAMPUS IS DEVELOPING QUICKLY, SO THIS IS A SIGN THAT SHE'S EMOTIONALLY MATURING.
FROM NOW ON, SHE'LL GROW UP EVEN FASTER.
SOON SHE'LL BE A PROPER YOUNG LADY.
HER GENES ARE PERFECT.
WHAT DO I MEAN BY "PERFECT GENES?"
A LONG LIFESPAN, A STRONG IMMUNE SYSTEM, EXCELLENT HEALTH AND MENTAL CAPABILITY...

HOWEVER, PERFECT GENES EXCEED THE CAPACITY OF THE CONTAINER WE CALL THE HUMAN MIND. IT'S SAID THAT WE'RE LIMITED TO USING ONLY 10% OF OUR BRAIN'S ABILITIES
IT IS THE BRAIN THAT MOVES THE BODY.
BUT THOSE WHO THINK THAT MENTAL DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE EASY BECAUSE HUMANS USE ONLY 10% OF THEIR BRAINS ARE GREATLY MISTAKEN.
THE REMAINING 90% IS UNUSABLE
THE HUMAN BODY IS SIMPLY CONSTRUCTED...
WITH A BRAIN THAN IS ONLY ABLE TO USE 10% OF ITS CAPACITY
THE BRAIN IS MORE MYSTERIOUS THAN OUTER SPACE.
MORE INEFFABLE THAN GOD.
DO YOU UNDER-STAND, HASHITA?
I SEE A FUTURE...
IN WHICH WE TRANSCEND THE LIMITATIONS OF THE HUMAN BODY...
AND TAKE ON MAGNIFI-CENT NEW FORMS...
...YOU'RE CRAZY!

IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT HE EVEN WENT SO FAR AS TO USE HIS OWN DAUGHTER FOR HUMAN MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS
THAT'S NOT THE CASE AT ALL ...
YOU KNOW ...
FIVE YEARS AGO, AT A CERTAIN PRIVATE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF GREAT RENOWN, A FEW YOUNG MEMBERS OF THE GRADUATING CLASS FORMED A CULT CIRCLE
AT FIRST, IT SEEMED LIKE A HARMLESS BUNCH OF NERDS, BUT PRETTY SOON, THINGS STARTED TO GET OUT OF CONTROL
THEY FILED A BUNCH OF PATENTS, AND IT SEEMED LIKE A BRILLIANT YOUNG GUY NAMED URUSHIBARA WAS AT THE CENTER OF IT
I DON'T CARE HOW MANY PROGRAM -MING LANGUAGES YOU KNOW!!
YOU CAN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND JAPANESE!!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LAUGH OR CRY... WHAT KIND OF "FUTURE" CAN YOU SEE FOR THIS KID!!
TELL ME!! URUSHIBARA!!

EVEN THAT...
ISN'T FAR ENOUGH.
GASP
AFTER HIS ARREST, HE WAS DETERMINED TO BE MENTALLY UNSOUND AND WAS COMMITTED TO A PSYCHIATRIC FACILITY.

HASHITA-SAN?
Gasp
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
AH...
SORRY
IT'S NOTHING
IT'S NOT GOOD TO THINK TOO MUCH
YOU'VE DONE WELL FOR YOURSELF
I ADMIT, I HAD MY DOUBTS WHEN I HEARD YOU WERE GOING TO RAISE URUSHIBARA'S CHILD AS YOUR OWN.
BUT IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE TAKEN GOOD CARE OF HER.
I'M SURE SHE'S HAPPY TO HAVE MET SUCH A NICE DETECTIVE AS YOU
NO
IT'S NOT THAT KIND OF FEEL-GOOD STORY

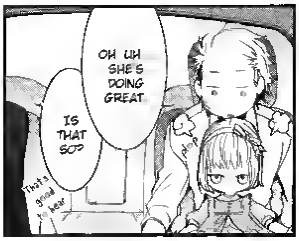
HIS GROUP HAS ALWAYS HAD INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS IN THE POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL SECTORS.
THERE'S STILL THE PLEA BARGAINING...
YEAH... I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE SAID, BUT I DO KNOW THAT A LOT OF MONEY WAS INVOLVED.
CRASH
WHAT!? URUSHIBARA GOT DISCHARGED FROM THE HOSPITAL!?
THAT'S HOW HE WAS ABLE TO GET FREED
I DOUBT ANY MORE INFO IS GOING TO SURFACE ABOUT HIM
HE'LL PROBABLY BE SHELTERED BY SOME CYBER CORPORATION
I WAS DISGUSTED... ALL BECAUSE OF HIM
I QUIT BEING A COP AFTER THAT, AND I STARTED WORKING IN THIS BUSINESS.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?
WAIT!
HASHITA-SAN!?
RUN
RUN

...I SUPPOSE YOU'RE A VICTIM IN ALL OF THIS, TOO.
YOU FEAR YOU'VE BEEN TOUCHED BY MADNESS.
THAT SHADOW...
AND NOT BEING ABLE TO FORGET KIND OF SCARES ME
THEY WON'T GO AWAY...
I CAN'T GET THOSE IMAGES OUTTA MY HEAD.
FROM LILY, FROM MYSELF, FROM EVERYWHERE ELSE IN THIS WORLD... EVEN IF IT'S ONLY IN OUR MEMORIES I DON'T WANT THEM TO EXIST.
COME BACK SOON, OKAY? ♡
OOH, I COULD GO FOR SOME MORE COUNSELING... SOME PERSONAL COUNSELING. YOU KNOW~ ♡
SLAP
AND YOU WERE EXPOSED TO SOMETHING THAT WAS DEEPLY DISTURBING
YOU COULD SAY THOSE FEELINGS ARE LIKE THE HEART'S DEFENSE SYSTEM
BUT SOMEONE WHO DIDN'T FEEL CONFUSION OR FEAR COULD HARDLY BE CALLED A HUMAN BEING
IT'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.

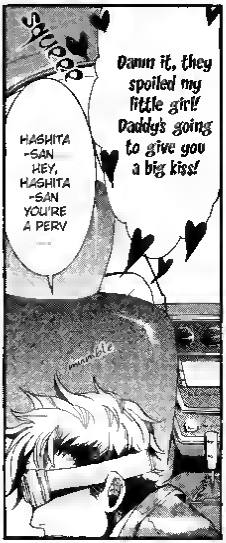
SO, WHAT DID THE GOOD DOCTOR HAVE TO SAY?
Crawl
Crawl

YEAH, YEAH
SORRY I KEPT YOU WAITING
— WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE?
NOTHING

HASHITA -SAAAAN
COME ON, COME ON!


OH UH SHE'S DOING GREAT
IS THAT SO?
That's great to hear

THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
Wah... gross...
WHATEVER, MAN. TAKE A LOOK AT THIS


SQUEEZE
Damn it, they spoiled my little girl! Daddy's going to give you a big kiss!
HASHITA -SAN HEY, HASHITA -SAN YOU'RE A PERV

LILY?
stare

I LOOKED OVER THE DATA YOU GOT, HASHITA-SAN.
AND I HACKED INTO THE AMBULANCE DISPATCH RECORDS FOR THAT DAY TO TRACK THE ROUTE HIS CORPSE TOOK AFTER THE ACCIDENT
ISN'T THIS WEIRD?
THE ACCIDENT SIDE IS HERE, AND THE AMBULANCE WENT OVER HERE
BUT ALONG THAT ROUTE THEY PASSED RIGHT BY A HOSPITAL TRAUMA CENTER
WELL, HE WAS ALREADY DEAD, WASN'T HE? HIS BODY WAS PRETTY MESSED UP...
IF SOMEONE DIES BEFORE THEY REACH THE HOSPITAL, THE HOSPITAL STILL HAS TO PROCESS THE PAPERWORK
Oh
BUT THIS IS A HOSPITAL TOO, RIGHT?
YEAH, BUT THAT HOSPITAL IS PARTNERED WITH THE SHINRASHI CLINIC
!!

I THINK THIS IS "BINGO", HASHITA-SAN
LET'S GET TO THE BOTTOM OF KUWATA SUOU'S CASE
YEAH
HASHITA -SAN?
IF IT'S ABOUT SUOU
DON'T CONTACT CHITOSE-SAN
CHI -TOSE
CHI -TOSE
SANSUI Corporation
CHITOSE?
slide
WE'RE BACK!

splat
NEE-SAN? WHAT'S WRONG?
ARE LATE!!
grrrrrr
YOU...
THEY WON'T EASILY REVEAL THEIR WEAKNESS
I SUPPOSE WE JUST HAVE TO MAKE DO WITH SNIFFING AROUND THE OUTSIDE...
WHY THE HELL IS THE SENSAI GROUP SO GODDAMNED HARD TO GET INTO!? WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO INFILTRATE THEM AT ALL!
NOTHING, I'M JUST PISSED OFF!!
Let me see that
?
HUH?
OH?
ABSOLUTELY NOT!
pain
SO DO WE GIVE UP ?

Travelling Exhibit: Edo in the Mid-19th Century
THIS IS...
AN EDO-THEMED TRAVELLING EXHIBIT?
IT OPENED HALF A YEAR AGO WITH THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION RECREATION AND CULTURE.
IT'S THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST HISTORICAL THEME PARK AND SENSAI HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT.
ALRIGHT, BOYS HERE'S YOUR NEXT ASSIGN-MENT:
INFILTRATE THE EDO PERIOD!

AMATSUKI 8 END

Hana-Awase
Amatsuki 48
Thanks
Translator
Cleaners
Typesetters
Quality Checker
あまつき